

Monday, October 17, 2022

Good evening,

I am writing to you to inform you that we had a visitor in the parish church today who engaged in mischief - possibly motivated by mental health struggles, if not outright maliciousness. All the candles in the church were lit, candle followers were all removed & stashed throughout the church, and furniture was moved around. Our visitor also spent a significant amount of time touching and moving things, particularly in the sanctuary. We're still taking stock, but there is also some possibility that some items were stolen. **At this time, I am happy to report that nothing seems to be vandalized, damaged, or defaced.**

Though I have hope that this was little more than an expression of some sort of mental or emotional struggle, I need to discern what might be an appropriate response. I will be consulting with the archdiocese. We are also submitting our security footage to the police, asking for any assistance they can offer.

For the next several days, **the church will be locked before and after public liturgies (ie, Masses & confessions), parish events, or group gatherings.** Please note that our liturgical celebrations and parish gatherings will continue as normal – we will have our daily Masses, confessions, faith formation & other group gatherings as normal.

Happily, there seems to be no reason to be fearful or overly alarmed – we simply need to take stock of things and consider how to respond. We will take a few days to gather whatever information & evidence as we can, consult chancery & civil authorities about the most prudent next steps, and put any new security measures into place.

It can be frustrating and discouraging when this kind of thing takes place. Let us be reassured – and reassure each other – in our solidarity with the sufferings and victory of Jesus! And in addition to praying for each other, let us pray for our visitor, that the Lord may touch their and our hearts, bringing healing in peace where it is most needed.

yours in Christ,
Father Maurer