

## A Message from Father Pinnisi

After many weeks of celebrating the Mass without a congregation, I'm happy to announce that our Bishop has given permission for us to resume public Masses starting on the weekend of **June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**. The schedule of Masses will resume on **Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm**. On **Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>**, Masses will take place at the usual times; **7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 12:00 noon**. Typically, after Father's Day, the custom here is to reduce the schedule of Masses. This summer we will maintain the normal Mass schedule for Sundays to accommodate our people by allowing less at each Mass. Confessions will still be heard by appointment and take place in a manner respecting proper, safe distancing.

The world is a different place now and when returning to church we want to observe all the safeguards in place to keep everyone healthy. First and foremost, if you feel sick or are aware that you are positive for the COVID 19 virus, please stay home and do not come to church. It is not a sin to miss Mass when you are sick. Likewise, for those who are elderly and may have other health conditions, you also may elect to remain at home and watch the Mass on television or online.

Everyone upon entering the church should be wearing a mask. Once you have gone to your seat, look around you and be sure that at least six feet of space exists in every direction. Use your discretion to distance yourself from others safely. Of course, that does not apply to members of your own family whom you live with and came to church with. You will notice upon your arrival that the missals in the pews to follow the Mass have been removed. This is a recommendation from the diocese regarding multiple people touching the same book with no time in between Masses to sanitize them. This will allow you to listen to the Mass and the Sacred Music without the distraction of reading. On the subject of music, it is suggested that the congregation not sing so as to minimize the amount of breath expelled while in church. It will also give you an opportunity to listen to the new Director of Sacred Music, Mr. Jim Palmer. I'm sure you will find the music beautiful and inspiring.

The sign of peace is suspended until further notice. The love you feel for those around you is in itself a wonderful expression of discipleship and of our common faith in Christ Jesus. The kneelers are able to be lifted up easily with one's foot. Please lift them when leaving your pew. This will make it easier for others to move about without holding on to the tops of the benches.

When Holy Communion is ready to be distributed, those approaching should allow six feet between themselves and the person in front of them. As you come up the aisle toward the altar remove your mask when you are next to receive. When the host is placed on the palm of your hands, receive it immediately in front of the Priest or Deacon and then put your mask back on. The distribution of Holy Communion under the species of the Precious Blood remains suspended. Remember when you receive the Sacred Host you receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ. Until further notice, Altar Servers will not serve Mass. Hopefully, their role will be restored soon.

Once the Mass is concluded, if you care to chat with your friends and fellow parishioners, kindly make your way out of the church and speak outdoors. This will allow an opportunity for us to prepare the church for the next Mass. **Weekday Masses will commence on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**. We will be using the summer schedule which means only one Mass on **weekday mornings at 7:30am**. We will continue to offer the Mass on **Monday evenings at 7:00pm**, although the monthly Healing Mass will remain suspended until further notice.

**In our final preparations to resume public Masses, we will close the church building beginning tomorrow June 3<sup>rd</sup> and it will remain closed until Sunday morning June 7<sup>th</sup>. During these days we will be doing some painting, cleaning, and disinfecting everything. Please excuse this inconvenience.**

Peace,

**Fr. Robert**