

FROM THE PASTOR - June 2020

Order: Newest to Oldest

June 28, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR.....MY DEAR PARISH FAMILY, as we are entering the **THIRD WEEKEND OF THE CHURCH REOPENING**, we are beginning next weekend to slowly make a few adjustments due to the virus. We will be taking down the signs in the pews - "Please Leave Pew Empty" – and trust that parishioners coming to church will social distance on their own wearing masks. For those who do not feel comfortable coming to church, please know that Bishop Mark has still made weekend Mass non-obligatory. You are still able to watch Mass on TV or YouTube and make your spiritual communion as you did before. Communion will still be distributed after the Mass has concluded. But I would ask those who are just coming to church to receive communion outside of Mass to please try to make it on the times given – 8:30am, 10:30am and 1:00pm on Sunday. When we finish distributing communion at those times and someone comes in 15 minutes later, there is the possibility that they would miss the distribution of communion for that Sunday. Thank you for your cooperation. Also, we will begin again to have cantors at the Masses, beginning this weekend. Please feel free to sing along if you know the songs. Missalettees will remain absent from the church. Finally, I can safely say that 99.9% of parishioners have been very supportive and cooperative. Thank you and God bless.

I want to also **THANK** all those parishioners who have told Fr. Jonathan and I that they have been praying for us. You know, it was not easy for everyone, including your priests. I think many might think the priests have had it easy over the 3 months. But let me tell you as one who was ordained for active ministry, it was not always easy to sit and wait for something to happen. And now that we are beginning to reopen, our ministerial work is getting back to normalcy (thank God). So, I want to thank all those who remembered us in prayer and let us continue to pray for each other that we may remain strong until we can get back to total normalcy in the near future.

Since we have not used the gym over the past two weekends, the use of **GYM WILL NO LONGER BE AN OPTION FOR LITURGIES**. Also, this weekend, the signs of "leaving this pew empty WILL BE TAKEN AWAY. We are counting on parishioners to continue to wear masks and to distance themselves when finding a pew when coming to church. This will be another slow step to resuming our normal operations. I am counting on people to use their common sense when coming to church at any time.

For those families desiring their children to make their **FIRST COMMUNION**, you may do so at any Mass we celebrate here at OLV – weekend or weekday. Please let Jim Hoy

know your child will be making their First Communion so that we have an accurate record for our church records here at the parish office. And on the day of their First Communion, please stop in the sacristy before Mass to inform the priest celebrating the Mass. Thank you for your cooperation. We are trying our best to accommodate everyone as we try to bring everyone up to date with the sacraments.

HUMOR FOR THE WEEK - A mother gave her little girl a quarter and a dollar before church, "Put whichever one you want in the collection plate and keep the other for yourself," she told the girl. When they were coming out of the church, the mother asked her daughter which amount she had given. "Well," said the little girl, "I was going to give the dollar, but just before the collection, the man in the pulpit said that we should all be cheerful givers. I knew I'd be a lot more cheerful if I gave the quarter, so I did."

June 21, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR.....MY DEAR PARISH FAMILY Alice's dad delivered bread for a living. They enjoyed each other's company, so he'd drive home at lunchtime and she would go with him. One day, they delivered to a large grocery store. When they pulled in back, the manager saw Alice and said, "I heard it's your birthday, so go pick out anything in our toy aisle free." She excitedly grabbed some paper dolls, but the big surprise was still ahead. Her Dad, the store manager, and the employees stood with a huge lit cake, singing me "Happy Birthday." She turned seven, and this was her first-ever birthday party. This weekend we celebrate **FATHER'S DAY**. It is our time to pause and recognize those fathers who might have arranged a birthday party for us. So often parents, Moms and Dads, are taken for granted until we do not have them anymore. May this weekend (like the weekend in May) remind us of how precious our fathers are and may we never take them for granted again. God bless you Dads and have a happy day.

After going through the first weekend of Masses, I think I can say that **EVERYTHING WENT BETTER THAN EXPECTED**. The cooperation of parishioners and guests was very commendable. It is still is not what it should be. But for now, we are safely doing what is healthy for all. We will continue the same way this weekend. I hope that beginning the weekend of the 27-28 we might be able to open up some more of the church. But that all depends on attendance and if there is a need to do so. We did not have to use the gym and I doubt that we will have to use the gym at all, but we were ready. I do thank everyone for their cooperation until we can get back to normal church life.

I also want to **THANK TERRY STEC** for all the work he has done to make our parish safe during these times. Terry has worked very hard for OLV, not only at the school and parish but especially over these past three months during the pandemic. In fact, Terry's work was noticed by the Diocese and he now has been asked to head-up a committee for Diocesan wide regulations dealing with the opening up of parishes and school. We are very proud of Terry and his committee. Not only for his work here but also for the work he will do for other parishes.

Congratulations to our **11TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS** for their coming celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation this Wednesday. I pray that their reception of the Spirit in a very special way will make them courageous witnesses to the Gospel of the Lord. May God bless them now and always.

Due to our 11th graders being Confirmed this Wednesday, June 24, Adoration will end at 5:00pm on Wednesday, and there are no confessions.

Having been in contact with **FR. RALPH** over the past few months, it is with a sad heart that I inform you that Father will not be able to make his visit to us this year. As Father said to me, this will be the first time in 20 years that he has not come to the United States for a visit. He has informed me that even though the seminary where he teaches, the Chancery where he works and our school (Holy Name of Mary) have been closed, he is very busy with baking bread and distributing rice to the people in his village. He, like us, is not sure how long this will go on for him, but he is prepared to continue to help as much as he can. Even though he is not coming this summer, I feel we still can take up a second collection for him since he foresees Holy Name of Mary opening up in September. I will let you know when the collection will be taken up, but for now, I wanted to give you the news of his absence this summer.

HUMOR FOR THE WEEK – Some perceptions of Fathers from their children:

- A 6-year-old said, “When Daddy takes a short cut, it always turns into a long cut.”
- When a Chicago father was having trouble fixing his daughter’s hair, she said, “That’s okay. He’s just a daddy. He’ll be a mom someday.”
- When an Arkansas father was stopped for speeding in his shiny new Mustang his 5-year-old son leaned over and exclaimed, “But officer my daddy always drives fast in the Mustang.”

June 14, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR.....MY DEAR PARISH FAMILY, as we begin the **CELEBRATION OF MASS** this weekend, the times for the Masses will be the same as always – Saturday

Afternoon at 4:00, Sunday at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 12:00 PM. We will follow the guidelines given to us by Bishop Mark.

- Everyone entering the church should be wearing masks. Distancing will be observed by families and others sitting only in the designated areas. Hand sanitizer will be provided by the church.

- There will be no Sign of Peace, no Offertory procession, no congregational singing nor will servers be needed for weekday or weekend Masses.

- Communion will be distributed AFTER the Mass at the doors of the church. Those who will not receive Holy Communion can leave immediately after the final blessing and those wishing to receive the Eucharist will wait a few minutes and proceed to the doors for the reception, wearing masks. When ready to receive, lower your mask, RECEIVE IN THE HAND, replace your mask afterward, and then you are then free to go. Those who want to receive but did not come to Mass are asked to watch Mass on TV and then come to receive at the doors of the church, wearing a mask.

- During all this, you are reminded to DISTANCE YOURSELF at all times, especially in church when we return to distributing Communion during the liturgy. Please keep at least 6 feet between you and the person in front of you.

- Since we are the largest parish in the Diocese, we were given the exemption in attendance. As long as we are keeping distance and wearing masks, we can have many more in the church than other churches. If by some chance you are asked to go to the gym (which is only a temporary site), please understand we have reached the capacity allowed in the church building and we are now using the gym for the “overflow” of parishioners. We will not know if this will be needed, but we must be prepared.

- Again, I ask everyone to please adapt as best as you can. It has been a long 3 months and Fr. Jonathan and I have been trying to be as accommodating as we can be within the guidelines and you all have been so very patient.

- WEEKDAY MASSES will resume on Monday (June 15) at the regular times. Please note that the priests will do the readings and intercessions until further notice.

- ALL DAY ADORATION will resume this Wednesday after the 7:00 AM Mass till 7:00 PM with Benediction at 6:45 PM. Confessions will still be heard at 6:00 PM in the back of the church near the sacristy and must be concluded by 6:30pm in order to prepare for Benediction.

Next weekend, we will celebrate FATHER’S DAY. As always, we honor all those Dads who have stood by us throughout our lives, both in good times and bad. If you wish the priests to remember your father at the Masses on the weekend, please return the Father’s Day envelope found in your packets or found at the entrances of the church. All the names will be placed before God’s altar for the remaining weeks of June, asking God to bless those fathers who are still with us or grant everlasting peace and happiness to those who have died.

HUMOR FOR THE WEEK - An elderly lady was amazed at how nice the young man was next door. Every day he would help her gather things from her car or help her in her yard. One day the old lady finally asked the young man, "Son, how did you become such a fine young man?" The young man replied, "Well when I was a boy, I had a drug problem." The old lady was shocked, "I can't believe that." The young man replied, "It's true, my parents drug me to church on Sunday morning, drug me to church on Sunday night, and drug me to church on Wednesday night."

June 7, 2020

FROM THE PASTOR.....MY DEAR PARISH FAMILY, this week June 8-12, we will continue distributing HOLY COMMUNION during the week (Monday through Friday) at 12:15 PM. This is the continuation of the third stage of reopening and I am grateful to all parishioners who are making the reopening a smooth transition. It is not ideal, but as the saying goes, "It is what it is." This will continue through Friday of this week. We will not have the distribution on Saturday at 12:15 because Mass will be prayed once again here at the Church and in the gym, if needed, at 4:00 PM. However, Communion will be distributed at 5:00 PM for those who are still a little hesitant about coming to Church. It will take place at the doors of the church.

And as we begin the CELEBRATION OF MASS next weekend, the times for the Masses will be the same as always – Saturday Evening at 4:00, Sunday at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 12:00 PM. We will follow the guidelines given to us by Bishop Mark.

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A few weeks from now, we will celebrate FATHER’S DAY. As always, we honor all those Dads who have stood by us throughout our lives, both in good times and bad. If you wish the priests to remember your father at the masses on the weekend, please return the Father’s Day envelope found in your packets or found at the entrances of the church. All the names will be placed before God’s altar for the remaining weeks of June, asking God to bless those fathers who are still with us or grant everlasting peace and happiness to those who have died.

HUMOR FOR THE WEEK - The visitor was curious when he saw the Bible verse on the door from 1 Corinthians 15:51: “Behold, I will show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” It all became clear when the visitor realized the door went to the nursery.