

Pentecost SUNDAY

MAY 31, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

It has been a long time since we have been able to assemble in the church to celebrate weekend Masses, but we have finally reached the point where we can cautiously re-open our doors and gather together as a community of faith for worship. Many of us will see familiar faces for the first time since the health crisis began. **Remember that just because our doors have re-opened it does not mean that the virus has been eradicated. We all need to continue the practice of social distancing and observe all the rules of sanitization.**

As you enter the front doors of the church you will find bottles of hand sanitizer for your use, and out of respect for everyone I expect you to sanitize your hands as you come in. Before receiving Communion, it will be necessary for you to remove your mask and gloves (if you are wearing gloves) and then sanitize your hands again before receiving. You cannot receive the sacred host with your mask in place. As you come forward, please observe proper distancing.

If you are uncomfortable receiving Communion in your hand you are welcome to remain in your seat and receive spiritually. If you are sick or have an underlying condition that might pose a risk to yourself or others by coming to church, please stay at home where you are safe. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is lifted until further notice.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, quite an appropriate day for the Church to have a new beginning. On this feast day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the institution of the Church. It has been fifty days since Easter Sunday and we now complete our celebration of the Easter season.

In our gospel reading we hear Jesus say to his disciples, "Peace be with you." Not once, but twice we hear him say "Peace be with you." Every time we come to Mass, we repeat those words to all those around us just before we receive Communion. There could not be a more fitting time for us to express our desire for feelings of peace than when we are preparing to receive Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Although at the present time we must refrain from hugs and handshakes as we exchange the sign of peace, the simple gesture of a bow expresses our desire to share the peace of the Lord with the entire community.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for your continued financial support during these difficult weeks. Your ongoing generosity demonstrates your commitment to the Lord and your parish.

Peace be with you,

Fr. Jarek Szybel