



June 21, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Every year on New Year's Eve most of us gather with friends to enjoy an evening together and reflect on the events of the past year and express our wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous year to come. We are now almost halfway through the year and are experiencing things that are anything but uplifting and positive.

We have been distanced from our friends, and some families have even been separated because of COVID-19. Our churches, businesses, and schools have been shut down. We are afraid to hug our friends or perhaps even our grandchildren out of fear that we might make them sick. We wear a mask when we go out in public and stay six feet away from one another. We wash and sanitize our hands so much that our skin is drying out.

The virus itself is a devastating tragedy. Now as a nation we are experiencing social unrest at a level higher than at any time in the past. Racial disparity is at an all-time high in spite of the many attempts to even the playing field. Prejudice and hatred are alive and well in our society, and it should not be that way.

Jesus says that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. I would like you to take the time to make a quick examination of your own conscience and see how many times you may have been guilty of having a feeling of superiority over others or treated a person unfairly because he or she looked "different" to you. If you are not guilty, I am proud of you. If you are not guilty, think about someone else that you know who has a prejudice based on race, creed, or color. Think about someone who is a victim of prejudicial treatment.

My friends, God created all of us. Regardless of the color of his or her skin, God loves all of us equally and we must put aside our differences and learn to love one another as God loves us. Enjoy the diversity in the world. If you were painting a picture and painted everything on the canvas the same color, you would have no picture, just a solid block of color. Get rid of any hatred based on skin color or ethnicity. Don't pass negative feelings or ideas on to your children. Racism is learned. It does not come about naturally. Please don't teach racism to your children and remove it from your own heart if you find it there.

This Sunday is Father's Day. I wish every father a Happy Father's Day. If you are not a dad but have been a father figure to someone, it is your day also. Being a father is a full-time responsibility, but reward for being a good father is the love that your children give back to you.

Thank you for your continued support of the parish throughout these weeks of turmoil. Pray that God will intervene and bring peace and serenity back to the world.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jarek Szybel