

Hungry

Humble

Connected

All Saints Catholic Community

May 2020

Dear Friends...

This letter comes with three purposes in mind: **To Thank. To Instruct. To Invite.**

First, a thank you. You have been so faithful and so generous throughout this terrible time of crisis. Who would have thought that in our lifetime we would experience a deadly virus causing a global pandemic, that would upend our world, our schools, our economy, our families and our parish life? Everything that we knew changed overnight. And yet your Catholic values of faith, prayer, family, generosity, service and sacrifice were all magnified even in the face of such overwhelming odds. Thanks for the way you took care of each other, and kept an eye on the most vulnerable ones in your families and your circle of influence. Thanks for tuning into our live stream Masses and devotions on the webpage and on Facebook (even when the airwaves were jumbled and choppy). We're working to broadcast a taped Mass on Spectrum and Bascom Communications for those who don't have internet capability. Thanks for being households of prayer. Thanks for participating in the "drive thru" experiences, we *loved* seeing you all, (even in the midst of some pretty cold and rainy weather!) Thanks also for your faithfulness in your weekly giving, and your generosity to the Morrison House, and the poor and those in need. We have an amazing parish community where the incredible love of God is clearly seen, even when the doors of the church needed to be closed. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Now for the words of Instruction.

These bullet points are meant to highlight the main things to keep in mind as we open our doors to Public Masses. Many things remain the same...In fact the most important things remain same. The things that are different, we trust are temporary and they aren't really that hard for us manage. After all, we've made some some pretty big sacrifices already...and we made it thus far...(and the pandemic isn't over... and we'll change and adapt our protocol as needed.) These established guidelines are to ensure the safety of all.

- **If you are sick...please stay home.** For your good and for the good of others. Please call the parish office if you would like a phone call/visit/Holy Communion.
- If you are frail, or your system is compromised, or you have chronic conditions that leave you susceptible to disease or infection. You should stay home as well. **The Bishop has extended the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass indefinitely.** The Bishop's dispensation and your staying home are great acts of charity.
- **Beginning on Tuesday evening May 26<sup>th</sup>** we will open the doors for our **ordinary daily Mass schedule.**
- **Beginning the Weekend of May 30/31<sup>st</sup>** we will return to our **Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 8 and 10.**
- Please note that in the foreseeable future, **all Masses will be held at All Saints Church New Riegel.** The continued need for social distancing, requires us to use only every third pew. The Church in Bascom would hold so few people under these new norms. There is also the need to sanitize after each Mass which required the removal of all hymnals. The New Riegel site is equipped to project all hymns and responses. The Parish Hall will also be available for extra seating, (like at Christmas), with livestreaming and the reception of Holy Communion.
- If we find that another Mass is needed, we will certainly add one to the schedule.
- Ushers and Greeters will be present at the doors to give assistance and inside to aide in seating.
- Please come with your family and sit with your family. Since you don't need to maintain social distancing, you can sit together, and we can make room for more folks!

- Please use of the **no-touch hand sanitizers as you enter/leave and on your way to Communion.**
- As advised by State and local guidelines, when indoor gatherings are held of more than 10 persons in prolonged proximity to one another **all are expected to wear face masks/covering.** I know not everyone supports this approach, so we thank you for your cooperation. This is a sign of mutual charity for all.

*“...In this time of trial and testing, teach us to love one another and to be patient and kind.”*

- The **Offertory collection, and offertory procession are suspended** during this time. **Please place your Offering in the Sunday Offering Boxes found at all entrances to the Church.** You may do this on entering or leaving. **Please visit the parish website: [allsaints-parish.com](http://allsaints-parish.com) and consider On-Line-Giving.**
- **The kneelers have been temporarily removed** for the ease of those who must quickly sanitize the worship space. In the Church and Hall you will be invited to stand at those times. To kneel or be seated is also acceptable in these circumstances.
- **At the sign of peace you may obviously shake hands/hug/offer the kiss of peace with members of your own household. Please offer all others a wave and “smile with your eyes”**
- **The Communion Procession will take place from the “side aisle”** rather than the center aisle. **Observe the blue dots, marking every six foot,** and be mindful of social distancing. As you approach the hand sanitizer at the head of the communion line, **remove your mask, sanitize your hands, and receive the Eucharist in your ungloved hands.**
- **At the end of Mass, ushers will assist in dismissing you pew-by-pew,** so as to maintain social distancing. **Please don’t stay in church and talk,** as the worship spaces very quickly will need to be sanitized in preparation for the next Mass. Also be mindful of social distancing in the parking lots as you leave.
- **Confessions will be heard Saturday mornings, May 23, 30, June 6, 3, 20, every hour, on the hour, from 9-11am and by appointment.** Regular hours will resume when we determine a helpful schedule.
- **Anyone in need of the sacrament of the Sick please call the parish office and leave a message for frTim.**
- **The Parish Office will be open on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 1pm-5pm. Every member of staff is still working from home and will be glad to assist you or meet you in person or by Zoom when needed.**

Now...I get it...that’s a lot of instructions...but don’t worry about having to remember it all...I’ll keep reminding you during Mass...(and Sr. Marcia will keep reminding me)...We’ll keep reminding each other... It looks like a lot...but it’s not...and none of what is being asked of us is a great hardship... We can do this.

Lastly...Here’s our invitation...

As we’re all preparing to return to public Masses again, if you’re like me, you are probably filled with lots of emotions...Excited to be back together again...longing to receive the Eucharist... wanting just to be back in a church again...grateful for your health, or your job...sad about lost sports events, lost graduations and maybe even weddings postponed...anxious about opening things up too soon...or anxious about getting back to “normal again”... All those emotions, even those that seem to be opposed to each other...can all exist within the same human heart. The best thing we can do is to honor all those feelings and emotions...holding them gently ... treating each one with respect, for each of them has something to teach us.

We offer you this card with some questions to ponder. It helps us look at these last months with gratitude for some of the lessons and experiences that were helpful, even in the midst of a pandemic...and also to acknowledge the hardship, fear, and losses that the past months have brought to us, and the uncertainties that still lie before us. We ask you to take time this coming week and reflect with those in your household on these simple questions and write down some of your responses. Bring the card with you to church and drop it in the new Offertory Boxes along with your weekly offering. If you are not returning to Church right away, would you mail it to us, or drop it in the deposit box by the doors of the office? We’d love to hear from you, and to know how these unusual times have impacted your life.

## Gratitude

1. **What are you most grateful for during this time of pandemic?**
2. **What aided you in your spiritual growth during this time of pandemic?**
3. **What did you appreciate about worshipping at home with your family?**

## Grieving

1. **What did you find most difficult about COVID-19 and/or the "Shelter in Place" order?**
2. **What are you most fearful of about the days/weeks/months ahead?**
3. **What will change at Mass/in church that you anticipate will be the most difficult for you?**