

*The Roman Catholic Community of
Our Lady of Victory*

*Mission: Our Lady of the Snow
55 North Lake Avenue*

Troy, NY 12180

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June 1, 2020

A Warm Welcome,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I share my sincere prayers and warm regards as we plan for coming together again in what we are calling, "Homecoming Sunday". I wish to extend my deep appreciation for the many ways that you have responded so positively to the challenges that we have faced. Six weeks ago, I wrote to you asking for continued financial support while we were socially distanced – and you have done so generously. I thank you as well for your continued support of all the parish efforts. We have managed to keep our parish staff intact, food pantry shelves stocked and have increased the engagement of our Parish Family and community at large through live streaming of daily and Sunday mass, weekly concerts, Facebook, Instagram, and various ZOOM meetings. You truly are a community of "joyful disciples knowing, loving, serving God and one another!" as our mission states.

Even though we have not been allowed to gather in these past months, in many ways, we have grown stronger. It is with joyful anticipation that we, like the disciples, will be sent out after Pentecost. It appears the target date of our reopening may be as early as Mid-June (of course the exact date will be determined by the state and Albany Diocese).

With the challenges of COVID-19 the Diocese has asked each Parish to establish a Reopening Coordination Team and appoint A Pandemic Safety Monitor. I have appointed Vici Armsby to that position and she will be working closely with Maureen Cox as well as the Coordination Team. To prepare for Homecoming we ask for your patience as we monitor our roll-out and response from week to week. Things change daily, as you all know, as we face the challenges of the virus. I remind you of Jesus's often forgotten 9th Beatitude – Blessed are the flexible for they shall never be bent out of shape.

We expect when we reopen that the size of our assembly will be limited. We are working on plans to ensure we can socially distance in church and comply with the guidelines given to us for our safety and well-being. We are also exploring ways to facilitate attendance and ensure that no one is turned away.

We need your help! We could use volunteers to assist us in cleaning our sites. Ideally, we are looking for a team of 6 after each mass. We also need additional greeters to make sure those attending each liturgy sanitize their hands and are masked. Ushers will seat individuals and families accordingly. Please contact Nicole Gully in the Parish Office if you are able to volunteer, Parishoffice@olvols.org or 518-273-7602.

In addition, I am happy to announce, that Bishop Scharfenberger has appointed me as pastor of Christ Sun of Justice on Burdett Avenue in Troy. I am honored for the opportunity to serve the people as well as share Eucharist with the RPI students when they return. Surely this appointment will enrich us all.

These are challenging times. The reality is that we have 126 parishes and 60 active priests within our diocese. With this added responsibility for myself and Fr. Bellafiore a change in the mass schedule had to be made at all three locations. After consultation with the diocese, several committee members, and taking into consideration the needs of all communities we serve, given the CDC guidelines due to Covid-19, we have determined that our schedules must be as follows:

Our Lady of Victory:

Morning mass 8:30 am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (Note **NO Wed. morning mass**)

Saturday, 4:00 pm

Sunday, 7:30 and **9:45** am

Our Lady of the Snow: Sunday, **9:15** am

Christ Sun of Justice: Wednesday 7:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

I understand that these changes may not be ideal for some, but I ask that you keep in mind we are all being asked to be flexible, sacrifice and face the challenges of a limited number of ordained priests. I humbly ask for your prayers and understanding. May we move from fear to joyful celebration as we come together in the name of Jesus Christ.

We will post updated information on our website, via email, Parish App, our Facebook page and Instagram.

I am sincerely,

Fr. Randall P. Patterson
Pastor