

My dear parish family,

This past year has been most difficult for us as a parish to gather either at Mass or in our parish organizations in light of the COVID - 19 pandemic. A year ago, on the Solemnity of Pentecost, our parish opened its doors for the public celebration of the Eucharist, albeit with Archdiocesan protocols in place from the CDC. Moreover, the Archbishop gave us a dispensation from the weekly attendance of public Mass, and holy days of obligation; this was done to protect our elderly and vulnerable brothers and sisters from the COVID - 19 Virus. Now, having heard from the Archbishop in his letter to me on April 29, 2021, I am happy to announce that on May 22, 2021, prior to the celebration of the Vigil of Pentecost, the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will expire in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Please see the email link below on some of the exceptions for the certain circumstances that are outlined in the [Archbishop's letter](#).

I echo the Archbishop's invitation to return in person to celebrate the Eucharist together! Personally, I have missed being together with the parish family. According to the Archbishop and the guidance of the CDC, we will still "require masks and social distancing" in our parish. This means that people should maintain a reasonably healthy space between themselves and others who are outside of their families. We will no longer be taking temperatures prior to Mass, nor shall we be cleansing the pews after each Mass. I will still provide quarterly cleaning by professionals to ensure that our spaces are free from any viruses, including COVID - 19.

I want to personally thank our parish staff, our parish council, our parish wellness committee, and especially Mrs. Beth Gluck and many volunteers (those persons who took temperatures and those who cleaned our pews after mass) who have assisted in ensuring that our parish was a true safe environment. These persons have been selfless in their love of our parish family, and have been true lights to help us navigate during this pandemic; thank you so very much for your inspiring example of putting our faith in action during a difficult time.

Let us be patient during this time of transition to active participation in the life of our Church. Welcome home and God Bless you! Fr. Timothy A. Gadziala, JCL