



January 29, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we thank God that we are able to return to our church. This time of renovation has been especially difficult when combined with the effects of the pandemic. I am grateful to all of you who have so generously given to the campaign and continue to do so as we complete our commitment to the project.

As we move back into our church space, there are a few things that we will need to keep in mind. First, the church is certainly more intimate than the gym. We have grown used to the fact that our neighbors are ten feet away and that the space is almost double the size of the church. Second, please remember that we are still social distancing. We will have chairs in the gathering space set up to accommodate groups, and the pews will have marked areas where people can sit (and not sit) in order to space ourselves out. Please respect that others around you might have a different comfort level when it comes to personal space at this time. Remember, we still have daily Mass during the week so if you want more room at Mass, I strongly suggest attending Mass during the week.

I truly appreciate how faithful you all have been in wearing your masks. I ask that you continue to do so. I know that it is annoying and uncomfortable. I also appreciate that you have all been extremely faithful in wiping down the chairs after Mass. As we move into the church, we will no longer do this. However, we will still have people wiping down the main touch areas, such as door handles, in between Masses.

I am happy to say that we have a lovely gathering space that we can now use to visit with other parishioners. As we move into the church, we be reserving the church space for prayer after Mass. If you wish to visit after Mass, please do so in the new gathering space or outside if the weather is nice.

We will be moving back to using multiple ministers for the various tasks during Mass. Most tasks will be the same as before the renovation. We will have four Extraordinary Ministers standing in the same general spots as we did over a year ago. Two will stand in the main aisle and one each on the outside aisles. After Communion, everyone will return to their seats through the aisles between the pews. When in line, please keep some space between you and your neighbor if they are not in your household.

Unfortunately, there are a few items that have been delayed because production facilities have been closed due to COVID cases. The most obvious will be the paneling that is in the sanctuary

area. This should be installed by the end of February. There will be many smaller items that will need to be replaced or fixed over the coming months. The outdoor areas will be resurfaced, and landscaping will be planted as the weather gets warm. It is disappointing that these are still left to be done, but I think all of us can agree that under the working conditions of the past year, this is understandable.

It is exciting to be moving back into our space. The space will be beautiful once it is fully complete and the added gathering space will help foster community into the future. I have no doubt that you will be pleased with the new restrooms, new sound system, and the new air conditioning units. There will be kinks to be worked out over the coming months, but soon enough it will feel like home again.

Again, thank you for your commitment to this project and your patience as the work progressed.

Fr. Aaron Jenkins