

June 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph,

The public Masses have been going very well. We had about 170 people last weekend between our 5pm and 9am Masses. Many more watched the livestream or came during the week. We continue to worship and praise God as a family of faith. We will continue to be cautious, wearing masks, distancing, and disinfecting the pews to keep our vulnerable parishioners as safe as we can. Thanks to those who have been helping make gathering possible. There are other churches without such devoted volunteers that haven't been able to open yet.

This weekend we will begin the celebration of First Communion. Following shortly will be Confirmation, and bringing our RCIA Candidates into the Church. We are so happy that our young people will be able to receive the grace of the Sacraments now.

We have begun some outdoor meetings, so that we can continue to grow in faith and keep the parish operations going. Also some faith sharing groups continue to meet by video conferencing.

Sr. Ann and the faculty are moving forward with the details for opening the school in August. The JPPII Academy had a great year last year, the celebration of which was interrupted by the virus. We can't wait to see the students again!

I would ask for your prayers for those who are sick as well as those suffering from isolation and our young couples trying to plan weddings in the midst of great uncertainty.

Lastly, I would remind you of our hope in Jesus Christ! Now is the time to renew our hope and trust in God and let go of our anxiety and anger. While these are hard times, God is continuing to love us and guide us home. It is for times like this that our faith matters most. God tells us "Be not afraid, for I am with you always!"

In Christ's Peace,
Fr. Matthew