

From the Pastor  
June 14, 2020  
Corpus Christi Sunday

Dear Parishioners of Our Beloved St. Paul,

May I wish all of you a very Blessed Corpus Christi Sunday. Some may recall how this Solemnity has always been kept with great joy at St. Paul's. Last year our Knights of Columbus held the canopy as we processed with the Most Blessed Sacrament to the front lawn of the Church where there had been set up a temporary altar. There we all prayed and ended with Benediction.

This year things are much different, but in many ways, the same. For this Corpus Christi weekend has been the First Sunday when we have had public Mass and the faithful have received the Most Blessed Sacrament in Holy Communion. I wrote to you on Tuesday with this wonderful news, but, little did I know then, that the Bishop would permit the reception of Holy Communion. In fact, as late as Wednesday afternoon, all the pastors were informed that there was to be no Holy Communion this weekend. On Wednesday evening I was on the telephone with my nephew Michael. He is the father of four children. His youngest son is two and I was telling him that I would be in bed before him, which turned out to be true. When I awakened on Thursday morning, I was so grateful to see an email that had come late at night which permitted Holy Communion this very weekend. I was elated. Here at St. Paul's we have always and will always follow the directives of the Diocese. As a priest and pastor, I will always follow what the Bishop asks of us. I am always grateful to you the faithful for not asking me to be in disobedience to the bishop.

Thus, this weekend we have had two Masses with the reception of Holy Communion. Please continue to look to Flocknotes for the mass schedule of next week. We must never let the "Best" become the enemy of the "good." In other words, we are all trying our best to love, serve, and obey God Our Lord. Suspicion, rash judgment, and accusations never serve any good. During these many months of public Masses being suspended, our Church has remained opened for prayer each day from 9 to 5. The Most Blessed Sacrament has been exposed for adoration every Sunday from 9 to 12 and there has been a special Holy Hour each Sunday at 3PM. So many of the faithful, even from neighboring parishes, were so grateful for the service our little Church provided when so many churches remained closed and locked for weeks on end. We did the best we could. Confessions were heard every Saturday and Sunday for all these months. Next Friday, June 19th, is the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. There will be a Holy Hour in the Church at 7PM and ending with Benediction at 8. During the Holy Hour we will pray the Litany of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and sing the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Please come to ask Our Lord for mercy on us and on the whole world.

Weekday Mass will resume on Monday June 15th. The weekday Mass will be at 9.00AM (not the usual 8) and in the Church (not the Chapel). For the present time weekday Masses will only be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. There will not be weekday mass on Thursday and Friday for the time being. Holy Communion will be distributed after each of the weekday masses.

Our parish office will reopen on Monday June 15th. The office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 to 12, and then, from 1 to 4. Please remember it is necessary to wear a mask when coming to the office and may we ask that your visits to the office be kept to a minimum.

I have been so impressed with your generosity and goodness. Please remember that the Bishop has granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. The sick or those whose health is compromised. Should not attend Mass for their own sake and for the sake of our parishioners.

May God bless you, and  
May Mary, Health of the Sick, keep you!

Monsignor James F. Pereda