

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, I met with Mr. Ward and our school teachers to talk about what the upcoming school year would look like. A few weeks ago, I was confident that we would be opening up with students at their desks, however with the rise of the infection of the virus, I'm not so sure. I am concerned about the health of our students, our teachers and staff. We may not be able to open up and our students may have to go online once more. This is not the optimal form of education, however, it is all about the safety of all those involved.

Having said this, I think a lot will depend upon how we do our part to lower the spread of the virus. I am watching carefully the amount of cases in our county, when I looked, we were at 40 confirmed cases. This is up from the 20 & 30 cases, from last month. We are still doing better than some of our neighboring counties, for instance: Isabella County has 158 reported cases, Newaygo has 210, Oceana has 416, Mason has 73, Montcalm has 133 and Osceola has 58. We've done really well to have such low numbers, but we can't become lax. There is a month and a half to get this right, if we want to open up our schools in the fall, but it is up to us. Please, I urge everyone to wear a mask when out in public and keep socially distant.

I would like to thank Mike Pigorsh and the Finance council for their report on the parish finances over the past year. I'm sure many of us are interested in learning how we, as a parish did this past year and how we are planning to enter a new fiscal year. We have been looking into different formats of reporting, and I hope this is clear and understandable. If you have any questions, please call the parish office and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Please stay healthy- Fr. Tom