Dear Parishioners,

 At the weekend Masses, I gave an update the Parish living in the era of Covid-19. For those not present, I would like to re-iterate what I said. This virus isn’t going away soon and we will continue to follow the directions of the state and the diocese. We are all in this together and together we need to support one another.

**Attending Masses**

You will need to continue to either register online or call the parish office by Friday at noon if you intend to come to one of the Masses. If no one answers your call, please leave your name, phone number and Mass you wish to attend. If you don’t hear back from us, you are registered.

We need to register two reasons:

Our seating capacity is limited to 80 people and you may have noticed that the Saturday evening and the 9:00 a.m. Masses are very popular. Currently, we are able to seat everyone who comes with room for a few more. I’m glad to see you returning to the Mass, I want to make you feel comfortable enough to return, and that there is a place for you here.

The second reason for the registration is that, God forbid, anyone here comes down with the virus, this will help health officials to trace who may also be infected.

When at Mass, you will need to wear a mask, wash your hands before entering the church, and keep socially distant. This comes from our bishop, not from me. After the Mass, we clean the pews, the altar area and the bathrooms with a commercial cleaner.

**Parish Offices**

While the parish office remains officially closed, we plan to open with some restrictions. You will need to check the bulletin for office hours and to assist you better, it is advised to call ahead. We have been told to stagger the times when our employees come to work to avoid gatherings in the office area.

Like coming into Church, you will be asked to wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing. The doors will remain locked to keep that social distancing. There will be required forms that you may be asked to fill out before proceeding with parish business.

All parish meetings with fewer than ten people meet in the school. We have been doing many meetings online. This enables us to continue parish business, with many of our committee members staying in their homes. We will continue to do more of this- sometime with success sometimes not.

**Parish School**

In regards to our parish school, we do plan to open in the fall. How that will all take place is still up in the air. Our principal, Mr. Ward, is online with various diocesan and state officials, for direction. At this point, we have enough room to keep our students socially distant and we will certainly follow the directions of both the diocese and the state.

When entering the school office, please be aware that you will be asked to wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing as well.

The St. Mikes on Spikes Golf Tourney will be will be held on July 29. We made the decision to hold this event since the entire event will be held outdoors where the spread of the virus seems less likely. **However, we will lean heavily on directions from government health officials going forward.** In the meantime, please get your foursome lined up and register through Dennis Wolfe.

I encourage you to remain vigilant- if you aren’t feeling well or can’t wear a mask, please, stay home. Also, avoid large crowds and when out in public, please wear a mask and keep socially distant. I also ask that we be considerate toward others, especially in the service areas. I know that we want something done, we want it done now, let’s be thoughtful toward those who are doing their best to eventually service us. Let our kindness and patience be the cup of cold water that we offer to those around us.

Thank you for all that you are doing to keep one another safe and I encourage you to continue because you are keeping your families, your parish and your community safe from this terrible virus. Let’s support one another, encourage one another and pray for one another to help through time of crisis.

Within the Jewish Passover meal, there is a line which expresses the hope of Jews throughout the world: “Next year, may we share this meal in Jerusalem.” My hope for all of us is that next year, we will gather around the altar of the Lord to share in the breaking of the Bread and drinking from the Cup- without fear of catching the virus. It will involve sacrifice on our part to make it happen, but with God’s help, we can and will.

Peace-Fr. Tom