

From the Desk of Father Raaser

It had been 93 days, three months to the day that we had not gathered as a family for Sunday Mass. It is by the grace of God and the favor of our Archbishop, that today—The Solemnity of Corpus Christi we, once again, can offer Mass together!

There are a lot of regulations in place for the safety and well being of our parishioners. We can only have 25% of our church occupied, around 62 people, but we can have another 30 people downstairs in Toner Hall with close circuit TV, then we have the outdoor speakers which we will turn on for those who wish to sit outside either in your car or in the plaza, bring a chair, keeping the proper distance.

One must use a face covering while in Church, gloves are not necessary or recommended. And because the Covid19 virus is still very much alive and well, the obligation to attend Mass is still suspended. So if you are susceptible to the virus, over 65 with health pre-conditions, please feel free to stay home and watch a TV Mass or us. We will livestream the 10:30 AM Mass.

Certainly Mass will feel and look differently: no singing, no missalettes to follow along, no sign of peace, no bulletins to read and no passing the basket! No rushing to leave, no socializing after Mass in the plaza, and your favorite place to sit may not be available.

With all the differences that there will be, there is the one constant: the Sacrifice of the Mass of Christ to His Heavenly Father, and Christ's gift of Himself in Holy Communion. For 93 days, we have longed perhaps even starved for the Body and Blood of our Lord.

Perhaps now, since we were deprived of the Lord, we will grow in love and longing for the Holy Eucharist.

Extraordinary Reconciliation Friday

This Friday is the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is the feast of God's Divine love and His Human Love through the heart of Jesus. It is a feast of God's mercy and forgiveness. In returning to regular Sunday Mass, the Archdiocese of New York has asked all the parishes to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday, June 19th from 10:00 AM-Noon; and again 4:00PM-6:00PM. I encourage all our parishioners to go to confession and start afresh with the opening of Mass. After three months of being locked down, we all may need to go to confession; perhaps we struggled with anger, frustrations, depression, temptations through the computer, doubts, excessive drinking or abusing drugs, violence, lack of prayer, laziness etc. God has given us the chance to start all over again. Go to confession, you will feel better.