

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each week I see parishioners returning to public worship for the first time. What a joy to see missing faces! Again, to help those who may be returning to church this weekend for the first time;

Parishioners may only enter church through the main entrance. Parishioners with handicap needs may enter the side door leading into Sacred Heart Chapel.

- You are asked to have your masks on before you enter the church. Please use the touchless hand sanitizer dispenser before entering the body of the church. A new Touchless sanitizer is now located on the left wall inside the side door entrance.
- Parishioners may leave their contributions in baskets placed at each door where they may put their offering in as they leave mass. You may also continue to mail or drop off your offering at the Parish Office or continue to use WeShare electronic giving program.
- Social Distance is expected as parishioners receive the Holy Eucharist. White markings are on the floor of the church for parishioners to stand at proper social distance. The individual will receive in the hand with their mask on, move to the side, pull down their mask to consume the Holy Eucharist, place back their mask over their mouth, and proceed back to their seat.
- Masks must remain on until parishioners are back in their cars.

Presently, with every other pew closed off and the blue tape markings, the pews can only allow for 75 individuals. With anticipated husband & wives sitting together and families, I see the allowance of 100 people at each mass for the time being.

A reminder that His Eminence has dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this pandemic. As an alternative, Mass may be viewed online or on TV, and the act of spiritual communion may be prayed. Those who are at a greater risk of COVID-19 (those older than 65 or who have underlying health conditions) are cautioned not to come to church for Mass. They may join us only when they feel safe and comfortable to do so.

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Regarding our First Holy Communion class; After waiting for the possibility of having full attendance at our public masses for the last two months, I have decided to follow what many parishes have already begun. Beginning Sunday, September 6th and following every Sunday to November 22nd, at the 11:30 masses, no more than four of our Second Graders will be present to receive their First Holy Communion. I chose this mass because it has been the least attended mass each weekend since we returned to public worship. An email has been sent to all families with a child in second grade with more detailed information.

Regarding our Confirmation Class, sadly I received word this past Wednesday that Bishop Lagonegro cannot physically celebrate Confirmations at this time. Last month in a letter to you all I explained that in the rare event that His Excellency could not celebrate, that “special permission has been given by the Vicar General for pastors of parishes who have scheduled Confirmations in the months of March, April, May and June to officiate, *ad casum*, at the confirmation of their parish confirmations.” I said last month that I did not see this happening, unfortunately that is no longer the case. An email will be going out to Confirmation families this coming week with more details.

Please know that Deacons John Sadowski, Phil Marino and myself are keeping you all in our prayers. As we continue to live through this pandemic may each of us and our families continue to remain safe.

May God continue to bless us and keep us all safe,

- Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

Church of the Immaculate Conception

SCHOOL OF RELIGION “My Time With Jesus”

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Did you know... The Book of Psalms (a collection of songs praising God) is one of the greatest gifts in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. This book is sometimes called the “school of prayer” because reading and reciting the psalms in prayer helps us to learn how to pray. The original Hebrew title for the book is *Tehillim*, which means “praises.” The Greek word for the book is *psalmoi* which means “instrumental music. The Psalms were written to be sung and prayed. The Psalms are personal and contain individual and group prayers, hymns and songs, and various other forms of praise. . One of the most familiar images of God (His protection, His provision and His guidance) comes from **Psalm 23:** *A Psalm of David*

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.
In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me;
He restores my soul. He guides me along right paths* for the sake of his name.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.
You set a table before me in front of my enemies*;
You anoint my head with oi*l; my cup overflows.
Indeed, goodness and mercy* will pursue me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.*

- **Psalm 1** is a concise, poetic contrast of godliness and wickedness.
- **Psalm 10** asks where God is when times get tough.
- **Psalm 19** discovers God in nature. It then brings the God of creation into a personal relationship with sinful human beings.
- **Psalm 22** begins with “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus recites portions of this song from the cross, and New Testament authors refer to it frequently.
- **Psalm 46** attests that God is there for us – no matter what.
- **Psalm 55** expresses David’s dependence on God when close friends have betrayed him.
- **Psalm 64** is the most powerful. “Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy ...And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing. The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.”
- **Psalm 90** is attributed to Moses, who asked for compassion from an all-powerful God.
- **Psalm 100** is popular at Thanksgiving, connecting the giving of thanks with praise, worship, and joy.
- **Psalm 117** is the shortest Psalm yet in two verses it praises God’s great love, faithfulness and endurance.
- **Psalm 119** is the longest Psalm. Written in eight-verse stanzas, with each verse in a stanza beginning with the next successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Every one of the 176 versus makes a reference to the word of God.
- **Psalm 137** is a mournful remembrance of time spent in exile.
- **Psalm 139** is an intensely personal account of the intimate knowledge God has of His people.

Something to think about... “The Psalms constitute the masterwork of prayer in the Old Testament. They present two inseparable qualities: The person, and the communal. They extend to all dimensions of history, recalling God’s promises already fulfilled and looking for the coming of the Messiah. Prayed and fulfilled in Christ, the Psalms are an essential and permanent element of the prayer of the Church. They are suitable for men of every condition and time. (CCC 2597/2597).” The Book of Psalms is the largest known collection of ancient lyric poetry and has been part of our worship tradition since before the Jewish times of Jesus and continues with our Catholic worship today. The Psalms form the basis of the Divine Office – the Prayer of the Church. Over a period of weeks (usually four) every Psalm in the Psalter is prayed by the religious around the world so that, at every hour, all the different emotions of the world (joys and sorrows) are brought to prayer. In the Mass, we use the Psalms as a prayer-response to the First Reading from the Old Testament. **Read one psalm a day and communicate with God sharing your truest thoughts and feeling with Him. The Psalms become a window into the heart of Christ. As you enter into the window of the heart of Christ, know that Jesus will address your needs.**

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST

7:30 Domenic Accurso (req. by family)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND

7:30 Peter J. McCarron (req. by family)

9:30 Ann & William LaCour (req. by family)

11:30 *For the People of the Parish*

MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD

7:30 James Cooney (req. by The Fenton Family)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH

7:30 Doris K. Joyce (req. by Sarah McGuire & Family)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH

7:30 Michael John Connolly (req. by family)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH

7:30 Joseph Siragusa (req. by The Corcoran Family)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH

7:30 Filipo Mangiafridda (req. by The Jilleba Family)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH

8:30 Antonia Rodriguez (req. by family)

5:30 *For the People of the Parish*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH

7:30 Pamela Losavio (req. by Dan & Irene White)

9:30 The Freeman Family (req. by family)

11:30 Mary & Martin Moran (req. by family)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially: John Capria, Lauren Shields, Billy Keenan, Carl Pesce, Mary Murnane, Tracy Pappalardo, Ruth Ann Melia.

Second Collection
Next Sunday August 9, 2020
For the
Pastoral Solidarity for the Church
In Africa

**FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument.

FOOD PANTRY

For the month of August the Food Pantry will be collecting canned fruit. Please leave your donations in the collection bin in the vestibule of the Church. As always, we thank you for your generosity!

RCIA – UPDATE YOUR FAITH

Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic, or completing your faith initiation by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation? Or are you interested in just learning more about our Catholic Faith. Our program of Adult Faith Formation will begin in September, either in person (God Willing) or on line. For more information about the program, or to register, please contact Deacon John by calling the rectory at 786 2742.

CONFESSIONS ARE CONTINUING

**Please call the Parish Office to set up a day and time
With Fr. DeGaris
786-2742**

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Sunday Collection July 26, 2020 was: \$4,190
Sunday Collection July 28, 2019 was: \$6,934
Air Conditioning Collection 2020 was: \$ 956
Air-Conditioning Collection 2019 was: \$2,210
We Share for the Month of July was: \$7,620

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT**