Howdy,

Bishop Olmsted has initiated a new program called, "Rising with Christ: Restoring Parish Life After the Pandemic." He has given this program to us pastors for our input as we prepare to begin parish life again. Bishop is proposing a 3 phase program, which will only begin when he deems it proper based on national and state guidelines.

Before we begin we must prepare our ministers and volunteers for the changes that will be necessary. We are currently in this "preparation phase".

As Bishop Olmsted has stated in his weekly message,

“...Our faithful and clergy in the Diocese are longing for the Sacraments and for the parish life of the Church to be restored in its fullness. The desire for public Masses and the ability for the faithful to receive Holy Communion is strong and understandable. Our desire for our people to remain healthy and to protect the most vulnerable among us is also essential. We will begin moving toward the goal of full restoration of parish life with prudence and patience. We hope to balance the very real spiritual needs of the faithful with our great concern for the physical wellbeing of our parishioners and the wider community...”

For us here at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, we will begin live streaming Masses starting next Sunday (5/10) at 9am. Daily Masses will also be live streamed at 9am during this
time. For those who participate in the live-streamed Mass, communion will be available at the Church for an hour or so after the Mass. Ministers will be here to help you if you choose to come to receive the Blessed Sacrament. Please follow their directions and be patient with them.

Since this virus is most dangerous through saliva, Bishop Olmsted is asking that you receive communion in the hand, rather than on the tongue; remember that Catholic teaching says that the common good takes precedence over individual good. If you insist on receiving communion on the tongue, then please wait until everyone else has received before coming forward only to the priest; the process of giving communion on the tongue is a little different.

Thank all of you for your prayers and kind comments during this strange time. As I told a priest friend recently, "I must have skipped class in seminary when they discussed this."

I will try my best to keep you informed as we walk with our Lord during these difficult times.

Fr. Mike