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St. John Vianney Catholic Church

*"I will show you the way to heaven."
– St. John Vianney*



May 13, 2020

SJV Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I know people are having challenges with the delay of the sacraments being celebrated publicly and the slow roll-out. If you have not read Bishop Doherty's Decree from May 8, you can find it at <https://dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>. Within this Decree, Bishop Doherty says that the first public Sunday Mass for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana will be May 30 after 4:00pm. Daily Masses being celebrated publicly will begin at a later date, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available beginning June 6. There are many other details within the decree that you can read at your leisure if you so desire. There are plans being formed for cleaning the church after liturgies, and volunteers will be needed. You can look forward to future communication from the parish for the opportunity to sign up and volunteer. Please remember that the church cannot be a sterile environment as you would find in the hospital, but we seek to mitigate the risk of the virus potentially being spread.

I was reading an article by Msgr. Charles Pope, a pastor in Washington D.C., that I found to be beneficial and worthy of reflection. You can read his article at <http://blog.adw.org/2020/05/in-justice-we-owe-god-our-worship/>. From this article, I invite you to reflect upon your desire to receive the sacraments. He says at the beginning, "There is a strong tendency today to regard sacred worship as more for us than for God" (Msgr. Pope). However, to worship God is an act of justice. We owe God our worship! God does not owe us graces nor does He owe us sacraments. They are gifts to us, and we certainly desire to receive fully what God wishes to bestow upon us. First and foremost though, we gather on Sunday to worship God and not ourselves. That can easily be forgotten by how people speak of the Mass and which church they go to attend. Do people go to church in order to worship God? Or do they go in order to serve themselves? What is your intention? We, as creatures and servants of God, owe Him our worship.

Recall in the Mass, during the preface, the priest will say, "Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God". The people respond, "It is right and just". Think about that. This is an act of justice that we owe to God in giving Him thanks! Msgr. Pope continues in his article saying, "Complaints of 'not being fed' or of being bored cannot overrule our obligation to offer a sacrifice of praise to God every Sunday". Avoid giving into the temptation to think that the Mass is there primarily to serve yourself. When you have your emotions, frustrations and struggles, allow your response to be of service to God rather than to yourself.

Remember that Bishop Doherty has dispensed you from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until August 15, 2020. However, do remember that you are to keep the Lord's Day holy and not neglect to God what is owed to Him. Keep charity alive in your hearts and do not be discouraged my friends! Allow me to close with a quote from Scripture, "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but everyone for those of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

St. John Vianney...pray for us!

Our Lady of Fatima...pray for us!

In Christ, Fr. Tony Rowland