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## St. John Vianney Catholic Church

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



May 27, 2020

### SJV Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We will soon be able to have the public celebration of the Mass together! A reminder that we will be keeping with the suggested social distancing at Mass for families/congregants. Thus, the seating capacity for the church is smaller. **You can currently reserve a pew section at the weekend Masses online by going to <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/st-john-vianney-catholic-church-30337335150>.** We understand that there are those who may find it difficult to reserve a pew section online. If you come across a problem you may call the office and leave a message at 317-485-0150 or you can submit a question via <https://sjvfishers.com/contact-us>. This is to assist your planning for coming to Mass and will help ensure that you have a place to sit. The seats are arranged to allow 6-feet of space between families who will be attending Mass. For future Sunday Masses, you will be able to make a reservation for a pew section at 7:00pm the Monday prior to that specified weekend.

To assist your fellow parishioners and to help mitigate the spread of the virus, we need volunteers to help with disinfecting the church after each Mass. All materials (gloves, disinfectants, cloths, and instructions) will be provided. Please sign up to help using the following link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CADAA2CA2F49-help>. After you sign-up, Christine Vincent-Rodas or Angelique Porres will contact you with more information for this weekend. Thank you for your service to our community and helping to make it possible for us to gather together for Mass!

Please keep in mind the following, keeping with Bishop Doherty's Decree from May 8 (<https://dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>):

- Currently, everyone is dispensed from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until August 15.
- Those persons who are 65 and older and those with underlying medical conditions are urged not to attend any liturgies or sacraments at this time.
- The Saturday 4:30pm Vigil Mass at SJV will be specifically for those who are vulnerable to protect them from unnecessary interaction with the healthier/non-vulnerable population.
- Sunday Masses will be at 8:00am and 10:30am.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed at Mass until further notice.
- The distribution of Holy Communion will occur immediately after Mass. After a person receives Holy Communion, they are urged to exit the church and make their prayer of thanksgiving outside. Remember you are a walking tabernacle at that time! This will assist with social distancing and the disinfecting of the church after Mass.
- Social Distancing of 6-feet has been taken into consideration and thus limits the occupancy of persons in the church to about 20% normal occupancy. Family members can sit together.
- Face masks are required for the assembly. If you don't have one, they will be provided for you upon your arrival for Mass. Please bring a face mask if you already have one so as to not quickly

diminish the supply at SJV. As per the CDC, children under the age of 2 should not wear a face cloth. At a future date in June, face masks will be optional.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-coverings-information.pdf>

- There will be hand sanitizer for you to use when entering the church.
- Daily Masses will not immediately be public and will begin at a later date.

This coming Sunday, the Church celebrates Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Most Holy Trinity. We will often use symbols to describe the Holy Spirit. This is not to limit the Holy Spirit to an element we encounter in creation, but to help us describe the Holy Spirit who is greater than creation. Remember that we use the material world to help us understand the spiritual. We use our limited knowledge from creation to help us know the infinite Creator! This is a daunting task, but one that is well worth undertaking if you want to spend eternity with the one who loves you to the end and wants you to have life to the full!

Within Scripture, you will find the Holy Spirit to be described *like* fire, tongues, water, wind and dove. I am especially reflecting upon the Holy Spirit as fire. Think about what fire does to something. Fire changes everything it encounters. When something encounters fire, it may be consumed, converted, purified, warmed or steeled. The commonality is that everything is transformed. Fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 696).

Endeavoring through the changes we face with a global pandemic, we see changes occurring in our lives. How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to be a fire in your own life? The apostles were gathered together in one place, and when the Holy Spirit descended upon them, they changed. Transformations are to occur within our own life, and we are to have the interior disposition to be refined by God (ref. Isaiah 48:10).

I recall hearing a story about how silver is refined. The silversmith will hold a piece of silver over the middle of the fire, where the flames are the hottest, to heat up the silver. This will burn away all the impurities. The silversmith sits there keeping his eyes on the silver, because if the silver is in the flames for too long, it would be destroyed. The silversmith knows that the silver is fully refined when he is able to see his image in the silver. Think of God as your silversmith.

Will you allow the depths of your heart to be purified by the Holy Spirit? "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God" (1 John 4:7a). "If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). God is seeking to purify us in His love, and sometimes we undergo affliction in order to learn to love as God loves. Do not be afraid of the Holy Spirit and the Refiner's Fire! Come Holy Spirit, Come!

In Christ,

Fr. Tony Rowland