

April 25, 2021 Bulletin

***From the Pastor:***

My Dear Parish Family,

Spring is upon us and Easter has been celebrated yet we are still in the midst of this terrible pandemic. I do not like this virus any more than all of you. I wish it was behind us but it is not over yet. Each week we have funerals for people who died from COVID-19. As we hear about a vaccine and more and more aspects of our lives “re-opening” we can tend to let our “masks down” but that is a huge mistake. I am sure that all of the members of our parish, like myself, want this virus to be forgotten. However, despite the fact that all of us do not like it I will maintain the mask requirements, social distancing and other safety measures at St. Benedict’s Parish. I will not let go of not even one regulation until such time as the medical community tells us that the virus is no longer a threat. This means Sunday Mass, any upcoming events at the parish including First Communion and weddings, must have masks worn at all times. Social distancing and all the other safety precautions will be maintained at all times while in St. Benedict’s Church.

Our children will have the opportunity to receive Jesus for the first time on Saturday, May 1st, but we will maintain the directives I have in place. This means only the First Communicant and their two parents or guardians are allowed to attend First Communion. No one else will be allowed to attend the First Communion Mass. It will be livestreamed. If others attempt to attend the First Communion Masses I will not come out to celebrate the Mass. I will send everyone home until next year. None of us wants this but I promise I will do exactly what I am stating. In other words, there will be no exceptions to the rule for First Communion of attendance being limited to - the child receiving Communion and two guests.

Upcoming weddings will require everyone attending the wedding, including the bride and groom, to wear a mask. I have already received my vaccination but, I will not allow others to perhaps get the virus simply because they are attending Sunday Mass or some other parish event. Unfortunately, I still preside over too many funerals every week due to COVID-19 to relax the safety measures. I am not trying to be difficult but, instead I am trying to keep all of us safe and free from COVID-19. Please help one another by staying vigilant regarding all safety measures in all public places including Church. Thank you.

Pray with me for an end to this terrible virus. Let us continue to remember all those who have died due to COVID-19, all those who are sick with this virus and kindly remember all those who mourn the loss of loved ones who have died because of COVID-19.

Until next week, stay safe! St. Benedict, pray for us! Terence Cardinal Cooke, Servant of God, pray for us!

***Fr. Stephen Norton***

