

Dear Parishioners,

*The last three months have been a very difficult time for all of us and for the whole world. Many people have lost their lives because of Covid-19; many have lost their dear ones, sometimes with the terrible pain of not being able to see them before their passing, or without having the possibility to celebrate for them a proper funeral; many have lost their jobs or have been forced into financial precariousness; all of us, in a way or another, have been deeply affected, materially and spiritually, by this pandemic.*

*We were not able to see each other for a long time, and we all miss someone we love.*

*The forced isolation in which most of us have lived has taken a strong mental toll on all of us. For those who worked in the front line, fear, and the stress of fighting against an invisible enemy, has been surely a very heavy trial. To all of them we want to say our deepest thank you; you have been, and you will be in our prayers.*

*This time, however, has also been for many a chance to spend more time with our families, to reflect on our life, to put things into perspective, and to re-think our priorities. We, people of faith, know that “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Rm 8:28). May this God-given time become an opportunity for all of us to turn in trust and love to Jesus our Savior, to be more in communion with each other, and to start building, altogether, a better world around us.*

*Last Monday, June 8, the Premier of Ontario announced that places of worship may re-open across Ontario, for no more than 30% of their building capacity. The Archbishop of Toronto, Cardinal Collins, after consultation with the public authorities, experts and the organs of the Archdiocese, has decided to allow re-opening of the Churches across the Archdiocese. Following these directives, **we will reopen as follows:***

- ***This Sunday June 14*** (Solemnity of Corpus Christi), our Church will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- ***Monday and Tuesday (June 15 and 16)*** the Church will be open from 9 am to 12 noon for private prayer only
- ***Wednesday June 17*** public celebration of Mass will be resumed. The Church will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m.
- ***Please check our website for the full schedule***

*We are exceedingly glad to welcome you back into our Church. These past months we have tried to keep in touch with all of you mainly through the media, by broadcasting on our YouTube channel daily and Sunday Mass, and daily Adoration and prayers. We hope that this has been helpful for all of you. We have been praying for you daily, and tried to be available, as much as possible, on the phone and for individual confessions. Now is finally the time to resume our sacramental life together. Media have been a blessing throughout this time, but the Church is essentially a community which gathers together, in body and soul, to worship the Lord and care for each other.*

*However, **this is not a full return to normal liturgical practice.** We have to keep in mind that the pandemic is not over yet, and that our primary duty is to take care of each other's spiritual and physical health. Therefore, we will need the cooperation of all of you to comply*

*with all the guidelines and the rules established by the authorities, civil and ecclesiastical, for the common good and the safety of all. Many of our normal habits and activities will be subjected for some time to restrictions and regulation which we need to know and observe.*

*The **capacity of our Church**, for the time being, will be of **180 people**, all seated, to which we will add, in the weekends, **50 people** seated in the Parish Hall, where Mass will be visible on the screen.*

*The limitation is due to the necessity of **always keeping a distance of at least 6 feet between each other** (except for people living in the same household). **This distance must be respected by all at all times**, whether seating or standing, inside and outside the Church. Especially at **the time of distribution of Holy Communion**, we will all need to be very careful in obeying the directives that the priest will communicate.*

*Unfortunately, the limitation on the Church's capacity might prevent some of you to participate to the Mass, especially on Sunday. For this reason, we will keep **livestreaming our Sunday Mass** on our YouTube channel, to allow those who are not able to attend Mass in the Church to join us spiritually. During the week, for the time being, we will have one Mass per day, from Monday to Friday.*

*As you know, the **Church will have to be cleaned and sanitized after each Mass**. This means that on Sunday the Church will be closed in between the Masses to allow the cleaning and sanitation. Therefore, **we must make some adjustment to our Mass schedule**. **Please check our website for the new schedule**. Since we are navigating in uncertainty, it is possible that our schedule will be changed several times in the next few months, to adjust to the circumstances. Every change will be promptly communicated through our website. We thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.*

***The instructions regarding the rules to be observed in Church are posted on our website and will also be posted on the Church doors. Please read them carefully before coming to the Church. We strongly encourage you to come to Church at least 15 minutes earlier than the beginning of the Mass.** The entering procedure will be longer than usual, and if you come late you might not be able to enter if we have already reached our maximum capacity. As you enter the Church you will not be able to choose your own seat, but you will be directed to the place you should occupy. **Please follow all the directives of clergy and staff. When you come to pray during the day, please use only the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament only.***

*Moreover, **we really need you help in this time**, for the service of hospitality and cleaning. We have to follow many obligations if we want to keep our Church open and keep everyone safe. **We need many volunteers** to help us make this possible. If you are available for these services, please contact us by phone or email, at **905-653-8000** or at [saintclare150@gmail.com](mailto:saintclare150@gmail.com)*

*The Parish Office will remain closed to the public until further notice.*

*We hope to see you soon in the Church.*

*May God bless you all*

*Msgr. John Borean*

*Fr. Antonello Murgia*