

*Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek. – St. John Paul II*

These past six months have been difficult for all of us. As Catholics, it has been particularly difficult without our normal access to the Eucharist. Before this spring, it was unthinkable that Holy Communion and the Mass would not be available to the faithful for over two months. Thankfully, since June we have been able to gather in small numbers at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Still, many parishioners have remained only able to participate in the Mass via online watching and making spiritual communions. I hope and pray that these separations from the Mass might make us love the Eucharist even more and not make us indifferent to it. My heart aches for all those who desire to receive the Eucharist but are unable to for health reasons or other reasons. May we desire Jesus and His invitation of His Divine Life to dwell in us!

**Some practical notes:**

First, while the parish is not back to the usual Mass schedule, we will begin offering daily Mass in all three churches again. Due to our sanitizing requirements and the limited numbers signing up for daily Mass, we will continue with one Mass per weekday for now.

**Starting September 4, the weekday Mass schedule will be:**

**Monday- 8 AM- St. Bartholomew**

**Tuesday- 7:30 AM- Holy Cross**

**Wednesday- 8 AM- St. Maximilian**

**Thursday- 8 AM- St. Maximilian**

**Friday- 7:30 AM- Holy Cross**

Second, we will be offering a School Mass once a week for the students and faculty only. With one school Mass a week with cap of fifty at Mass, each student will get to a school Mass at least once a month. These school Masses will be held on Mondays.

Third, Sunday Masses are filling up to the capacity of 50 individuals frequently. Therefore, remember to sign up ahead of time to ensure you have a spot. You can sign up online at [jp2me.org](http://jp2me.org) or by calling the parish office from Monday through Friday at 883-0334.

Finally, there has been confusion about how to receive communion with a mask. You can show your love for the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist by following carefully the proceeding steps. When approaching the priest to receive communion, please remember to create a throne for the Lord by holding your hands out, one hand on top of the other. It is important that your hands are relatively flat with your palm open and not cupped to ensure that there is no physical contact made by the priest. Next step to the side, remove your mask from one ear with your free hand. Then consume the host before returning to your seat. It is important that the Host be consumed before walking back to your seat. As you return to your seat you can adjust your mask back into place. While this sequence is a bit awkward, it is important that we treat the Eucharist and each other with deep respect and care.

Please know that I remember you all at the Mass and raise up your prayers with mine. At the Eucharist we are close together even when physically apart and we are gathered with all the Angels and Saints. May our hearts be ablaze with love for Jesus in the Eucharist- for He is the answer to life that we seek!

St. John Paul II, pray for us!

*Fr. Jack Dickinson*