



My dear parish family,

Thank you for walking with me during this difficult time!

The **Phase 1 & 2 of regathering in church** for Mass and other sacraments have been safe and prayerful for our parish family. I am thankful to the parishioners who have shared with me how safe and prayerful it was for them to return to church for Mass. I pray that the Lord continues to draw us beyond ourselves to focus on the wellbeing of everyone—the healthy, the sick, and those at risk—by being attentive to the guidelines and measures from the Diocese of Des Moines and do everything we can protect all.

Our **Phase 3 of regathering in church** begins on 5 July. Along with sacramental celebrations, it allows parish groups and organizations to regather for ministry review, prayer, devotions, and study. We hope to organize a meeting of leaders via zoom next week to discern together how we want to go about making provisions for gathering of small groups.

We have begun celebrating baptism, wedding, and funeral with moderate attendance. The families have been gracious and understanding of the guidelines we have in place for sacramental celebrations. As we return to regular Mass schedule, I need the support of Ushers, Lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers. I pray that those who are healthy will sign up.

Finally, grateful to those who let the parish leaders know that the Mass Attendance Sign-up document is becoming a hindrance. It is temporary—and our purpose is to provide a safe and prayerful space for Mass. Please continue to renew your financial support for the parish; without your faith and commitment, we would not be able to be a parish family!

Happy 4th of July - Praying for you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "+ Chinna Devaraj". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Father Chinna Devaraj

3 July 2020 | Saint Thomas the Apostle