

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Feeding and food! Even with COVID 19 few of us have stopped feeding and taking food? Somehow we find a way. It helps that we are able to take food in small groups, often the family.

The Eucharistic meal and feeding with Jesus are very important. However, it presents certain difficulties since often the reception of the Eucharist in the Mass means a larger congregations.

St. Joseph Parish is most fortunate in having the Grotto of Mary. All through the summer we have had an outdoor Saturday evening Mass and the attendance has hovered between 200 and 300. People are able to spread out and the outdoor presents a safer environment.

The Parish Council decided we should keep the Saturday evening Mass all through the year at 7:00 pm. Outside it is becoming dark and soon it will be getting excessively cold. We will have to move inside soon.

I would also like to invite people to return to the Eucharistic service even though weekend Mass is not obligatory. Hopefully a spiritual appetite will entice you to receive the Eucharistic. It is especially important for our children to receive Holy Communion together with their family. Allow me to present this opportunity.

Beginning in October ten minutes before each weekend Church Mass, I will be standing at the back of the church by the baptismal font with my back to the cry room. I will have the Eucharist with me. Parishioners and children who have a concern of the virus in confined places can come in the front doors of the church, pick up a bulletin, leave an offertory contribution, then come to me and I will give you Communion immediately. You will also receive a sheet suggesting prayers. You can leave the church, go to the car and pray for the moment with family or return home to pray.

Those who wish to remain in church can simply go to a pew and sit, and Mass will begin on time. As for those people who remain for Mass, we ask the people to spread out and as the crowds become greater also consider a mask. However, I will not police this aspect because your own common sense and concern will give you the best answer.

I hope this special accommodation will make it easier for people on the weekend to receive the Eucharistic meal. Even as few have missed many meals during COVID 19, I would hope to reinitiate you into receiving the Eucharist with Jesus weekly.

Let me also mention you are also welcome to come to Mass on a week day when the numbers are low and people can sit distant from one another. Thank you for considering these opportunities so that even during these troubling times, the Eucharist meal is available to you, family and children.