

May 12, 2020

Dear parishioners,

I hope you all are doing well, physically, and spiritually. I'm sure, that for some, these days, have been full of challenges and a bit difficult, but I hope that during those moments you have been able to lean on the Risen Lord and have been able to overcome our challenges and difficulties. We on our part have been praying, for this pandemic to pass, but more importantly for you at home, so that the Lord will accompany you and guide you in this time, and most of all so that you may remain steadfast in the faith.

As you have probably seen, and read, the Diocese of Dallas has begun the process of reopening the churches. This process will be divided into four phases. As of April 30th, we have begun phase 1, which, will allow us to continue with confessions at their normal scheduled times, to celebrate weddings, quinceaneras, and funeral masses, for Eucharistic Adoration, and perhaps for our RCIA candidates to receive their sacraments. For the moment, here at St. Michael, we will begin with Confessions. For this to happen we have been given, by the Diocese, several restrictions and guidelines to follow. These past days we have been preparing the church, so that all that we decide to do, will meet guidelines and will ensure the health and well being of all. We ask for your patience and prayers as we begin the process of reopening our parish.

We also take this opportunity to address the parents who have children in our faith formation program who are preparing to receive either their First Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as to our RCIA candidates. Due to COVID-19, parish celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, as well as baptism for our Catechumens, have been postponed but they are not cancelled. Everyone will receive the sacraments when state and local officials and the Bishop determines that it is safe for us to gather again. Each parish will determine a date and time for their celebrations of these sacraments. As of right now we do not have any dates in mind. We will wait for more information from the diocese. As soon as they give us the green light we will go ahead and see what dates are available and soon make them known to you. You can expect important information from the parish office.

Brothers and sisters, these are difficult times, nevertheless the Lord invites us to be more and more united to him. To trust in Him. Although we are unable to gather as a church to give thanks to God for all he has given us, I hope we are doing our best to gather, at home, as a domestic church. It is not a time to take a vacation from the Lord. I hope you have been able to follow us for the celebration of mass during these Sundays. Yes, it is not the same, but at least we receive a word from God, and it leads us to a yearning for the Lord. I hope we will soon gather around the altar to receive as a community the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not know how much longer this pandemic will last, but for the meantime "look for the Lord at all times". He is with us. He never leaves us alone.

If you have any question or concerns or need to contact one of us please feel free to email us directly. If you call the emergency number, please leave a message and we will call you back. You can also call the parish and leave a message, and we will get back to you. We will continue to pray for you all. Please pray for us as well.

God bless,

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