

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

September 5, 2020



“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (*Matthew 18:20*)

In this Sunday’s Gospel, we hear Jesus make this promise to His disciples & the Church. As a parish family, we know the blessing of being able to gather together in order to worship God & celebrate the Eucharist. After a time of being completely shut down, we have been allowed to gather since the middle of June to celebrate the Eucharist, *the source & summit of our Christian faith & life*. For the most part, our parish life has been limited to this. As we begin the month of September, I am happy to announce that we are taking further steps in our attempt to return to normal & vibrant parish life. One of the most significant steps is the reopening of our parish children’s faith formation program, which will resume on September 13th & 14th. This year, we have added a Monday evening session in order to allow for smaller class sizes & to compensate for the 2-week summer program we had to cancel. In addition to this step, many of our parish ministries will resume meeting in some capacity at the end of September. These are exciting steps as we continue to move forward & restore our parish to its normal vibrancy.

As I was reviewing the calendar for the upcoming month, I noticed a string of blessings that will take place at the weekend Masses. On the weekend of September 5th-6th, we will have our annual blessing of students & backpacks at each Mass. We know that school will look different for the students of our parish this year as they adjust to a new normal. So, all the more reason to invoke God’s blessing upon them as they begin another academic year. On the weekend of September 12th-13th, we will give a special blessing to all of our grandparents at each Mass for National Grandparents Day. I have witnessed first-hand the important role that grandparents in our parish play as a steady example of faith to their grandchildren. Such an example of faith is very much needed nowadays. Finally, at the 9am Mass on Sunday, September 20th, we will bless all of our parish catechists for Catechetical Sunday. This year’s theme is “I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.” This *handing on of the faith* is a great call that we receive from the Lord. The catechists of our parish have responded to this call & it is appropriate that we invoke God’s blessing upon them. So, September will truly be a month of blessings!

I hope & pray that you have a Blessed Labor Day! I look forward to seeing you at Mass!
Peace & Blessings,

Father John Large