

# Christ the King

March 19, 2021

Dear friends,

On the Feast of Saint Patrick, Bishop Spalding issued a decree, effective Palm Sunday of this year, lifting his year-old dispensation from the obligation to join the community in celebrating the Lord's Day and holy days of obligation. He reminds the community, though, of the need for each person to make a prudent judgment about returning to the Eucharistic liturgy, taking into consideration his or her own health concerns and those of others in the household.

This has been a year unlike any other we have known. It has required that we adjust the way we work, the way we gather with those we love and the way we worship. And I think, though we have not been able to please everyone with the various protocols we have put in place, we have been generally successful in keeping our community together and safe. Now, as more and more of us have access to the vaccine that will help us return to something similar to our old way of life, we want to be deliberate in our preparing for yet another adjustment to our lives. I will consult with leaders and medical professionals of our parish to determine what changes will best serve the entire Christ the King community. We have two months left in the school year. We want to be sure that – as we look toward larger groups at mass and, eventually, a restoration of meetings on campus – we do not compromise what has been a successful year of in-person instruction for our children.

We anticipate greater numbers of people returning to Mass. And so for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we will add an additional indoor Mass, hoping to provide options that will help you and your families feel comfortable and safe. I am mindful of those of you who remain vulnerable to COVID-19, and those with family members who have yet to be vaccinated. While there are few things more precious to me than gathering with all of you at Mass – and especially gathering for our most solemn Triduum liturgies – I know that you must make decisions about joining the community for the Easter celebrations based on what is best for you and those you love.

Our decisions to date have allowed us to keep our church open, without closure or quarantine, since Pentecost of 2020. For now, because there are many in the community who have yet to be vaccinated, we will maintain our current protocols, which include the wearing of masks and social distancing. These practices have served us well, and we trust that maintaining them, at least until the vaccination is offered to all, will help keep members of our community safe as larger numbers present themselves for our upcoming Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

I am grateful for your support of our parish. I am grateful that most have been patient with and understanding of me and Fr. Phan as we have done our best to navigate our way through this unusual year. I am grateful for the work members of the community have done and continue to do to serve one another. I look forward to returning to a more familiar habit of worshipping together. It is good to have hope in abundance! Please remember all those who have worked so courageously and with such dedication on behalf of others during this time. And may we all receive the Lord's blessing as we continue our Lenten journey to the Easter sacraments.

Sincerely in Christ,

