A close up of a church

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May 28, 2020

Dear Tri-Parish Family:

Peace be with you. These are the words Jesus spoke to those in the house even though the doors were locked. As we approach Pentecost weekend that marks the birth of the Church and the disciples finally leaving the upper room, we mark the possibility of slowly returning to the world to bring the Good News.

Bishop Lucia has announced that the celebration of Sunday Mass may return on Pentecost, May 30-31. That’s right, this weekend! Unfortunately, not all of us will be able to gather. Guidelines for numbers of people allowed and places that are acceptable are changing quickly. Our staff and trustees have been collaborating on plans for our safe return for all 3 churches. We have worked diligently and tirelessly in changing conditions and deadlines.

Our work allows me to announce that as soon as the governor allows us to gather at 25% capacity in Phase II, we will have our normal Mass schedule; (SM Sat 4pm, Sun 8am; SF 9:30am, SMA 11am). This could happen as soon as this weekend and whenever it does, we will be ready. Even at 25% capacity we will still be strictly following social distancing as well as all diocesan and civil guidelines. Please note that the bishop has extended the dispensation for Mass and if you are in the vulnerable group or unable to attend, we encourage you to continue worshipping with him online.

When we gather it will not be back to “normal”. There will be many changes from registering for Mass to wearing a mask. On the back of this letter you will find a “List of Changes and Instructions”. These are requirements from the Diocese of Syracuse that all of us MUST follow.

Since my last letter we have 3 new programs. Over a month ago we started Zacchaeus Ministry where we bring Jesus to your house! Each Sunday morning during the ban we have brought Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to homes where you receive a blessing and a chance to spend time with the Lord. We will continue this ministry until the 25% capacity is allowed. If you’d like to participate, please call the Parish Offices (315-437-8318).

We now have a communications program that provides critical information to all parishioners. It’s called “Flocknote”. Please join this free service. It is a wonderful way to communicate with everyone quickly and efficiently. To sign up simply text “TRI-PARISH” to 84576 or go online to [www.flocknote.com](http://www.flocknote.com) and search zip code 13057.

The third program is our online giving program. You are now able to send your offerings electronically! To take advantage of this program see our website (faithalive1.com).

The clergy and staff are very anxious to see you again and get a chance to worship and give thanks to God for each and every one of you. It has been a long time and we miss you dearly.

As your Pastoral Leader and on behalf of the staff, please be assured of our gratitude and daily prayers for your health and well-being. We look forward to praying with you and being safe. As it says in Scripture, “For the Lord their God will take care of them and bring about their restoration” (Zep 2:7c).

Peace and all good things,



Deacon Nick Alvaro

Administrator

229 West Yates Street East Syracuse, NY 13057 Phone 315-437-8318

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List of Changes and Instructions:

**Before you come…**

**REGISTRATION:** Register to attend Mass by calling the Parish Offices (315-437-8318) during the week between 12-2pm. We must have names and contact information for all attending each Mass in case of outbreak. Online registration will be added at a later date.

**MASKS:** All over 2 years old MUST wear a mask covering one’s face at all times. Clergy will not mask during celebration of Mass but must all other times.

**SANITIZER:** Please bring sanitizer for your personal use, specifically before receiving Communion.

**REMEMBER:**  Please follow all signs. We are not to gather or socialize in groups and to use social distancing (6’ apart unless living in same house). The churches will be cleaned after each Mass.

**OUTDOOR MASS:** It may be necessary depending a variety of circumstances for Mass to be outside in the parking lot. Please follow directions on where to park. Communion will be by vehicle with masks. More instruction will be available at that time.

**When you arrive…**

**ENTER THE CHURCH** only through the marked door. (SM & SF parking lot side door; SMA accessible door with ramp) and use the sanitizer

**CHOIR:** We will have music, but choirs are not allowed.

**HOLY WATER:** Holy Water fonts will be empty for our safety

**COLLECTION:** Baskets will not be passed. You may drop your offerings in the basket at the door or use online giving (see website faithalive1.com) or mail offerings to the Parish Offices. (229 W. Yates, East Syracuse, NY 13057)

**OFFERTORY:** Gift processions are not permitted

**SIGN OF PEACE:** Will be omitted to avoid shaking hands

**COMMUNION:** Communion lines will follow normal movements but observing social distance. Follow the instructions of the usher. Coming forward use sanitizer and keep mask on. Once you received, step to the side and lower your mask, consume the Host, and replace the mask.

**When you leave…**

**DISMISSAL:**  We will leave the church as directed by the ushers starting from the closest row to the door keeping social distance. Congregating in the aisles or the parking lot is not allowed.

**BULLETINS:** Bulletins will only be handed out by gloved ushers. Copies are available on our website (faithalive1.com) or join Flocknote (text “TRI-PARISH” to 84576)