



Saint James Catholic Church

May 7, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Shall we thank Almighty God that public Masses will soon resume! Archbishop Kurtz hopes to allow public Masses to commence on May 20th. The Parish Staff in collaboration with the Worship Committee and an army of volunteers are currently working on the plan respecting the directives and restrictions from the Governor and Archbishop that will guide the form and flow of Mass. I will share more information and details with you next week. Meanwhile, there are few things to expect when Masses resume.

- Attendance will be limited. The plan we are discussing will help accommodate as many people as possible. Mass will be held both in the Church and in Saint James School gymnasium.
- Social distancing will be practiced. Ushers will help you when you arrive for Mass; find a seat, and will help you depart safely.
- Be prepared to bring a mask/face covering with you to Mass.
- Liturgical changes will be in place. Similar to protocols established in early March, extra precautions will be taken, like suspending the distribution of the Precious Blood and Sign of Peace.
- The Church and School Gym will be sanitized following every Mass.
- **Finally, let's strive for progress and not perfection.** If we all work together, we can ease back into what we have missed so much – Holy Mass and the grace of the Sacrament. However, if we look for ways to get around the regulations, we will likely create situations that force us to take steps back.

It will be so very good to be together again.

I am very pleased to announce that Father Juan Luis Gomez has been assigned to Saint James Parish effective August 5th, 2020. Father is a native of Mexico and a priest of the Archdiocese of Lyon. He will reside at Saint James Parish and have specific responsibility for serving our Hispanic community that Father Scott has served so well during his time with us.

Thanks so much to everyone who completed the Survey as a part of our Strategic Planning Process. The good information you provided is currently being analyzed and summarized. The Parish Pastoral Council and Strategic Planning Team will share the conclusions in the not too distant future. Obviously, the work has been delayed due to not being able to conduct public meetings during the *Stay at Home* restrictions. At this point, the process will be on hold until Father Michael Wimsatt arrives as he will need to participate in the process as your new pastor.

As we are able to resume some elements of parish life, I can't say strongly enough how much I appreciate your patience, prayers and persistent pattern of prayer you have exhibited over the past months. I sure hope that the live-streamed and taped Masses and many other opportunities to help you stay connected to Christ and to one another have been beneficial. On behalf of Fathers Scott, Kirby and the entire Parish Staff, you have been missed!

God bless you and keep you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin A. Jimenez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Father Martin