

May 8, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is John 14:1-12. In this passage we hear Jesus saying: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also me,”* and *“I am the way and the truth and the life.”* Reminding us to trust in our faith in Him because he guides us in doing the work of the Father. Each of us has been graced with unique gifts and talents that can be used for the growth of love and mercy, the work of the Father. Even now as we learn how to live life differently, we need to turn to Jesus so that he can help us to do this work in a way that promotes and protects life. Jesus gives us his Spirit that enlightens us to overcome any challenge that comes our way. Let us have confidence that He will see us through in doing this work.

Working through our present challenge, Pope Francis unites himself with, and calls the Church to unite with, all people of faith to pray for the end of the Covid-19 virus. Pope Francis has endorsed the call to “the believers of all the religions to unite together spiritually on May 14 in a day of prayer and fasting, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic.” To help us participate with the Holy Father, I will open Saint James Church for some time of Adoration. On Thursday, May 14 from 4pm - 6pm the church will be open for quiet prayer with our Lord present on the altar. Come spend a few moments in the presence of Jesus in the quiet of the church as we unite with all faiths in prayer. We still need to exercise caution and ask that you please use common sense and keep the appropriate social distancing practices.

As our state and nation slowly reopen, we pray for the day to celebrate the Eucharist together. As a member of the Collage of Consultors, I can affirm that the Diocese is working hard to develop a plan for reopening our churches. We should be receiving directives next week relating to the celebration of the liturgy and sacraments. As our churches reopens for liturgies, we will continue to provide a recorded mass for some time.

I am working with my staff on a plan to reopen the parish offices and restart parish programs and committees. We will follow all guidelines required of us. Let us pray that as the world and our local community “opens up,” that the safety of every person is ensured, and that people use good judgement regarding social gatherings, recreation, and commerce to help restore our experience of life and to prevent us from having to close again.

Once again, a word of gratitude for all your support spiritually and financially. We are currently working on next year’s financial budget, which starts July 1<sup>st</sup>. With so many uncertainties, this budget is exceedingly difficult, as we see the numbers coming together. Through the grace of God and your continued support, and maybe with some unexpected gifts or bequests that we may receive, we will continue to witness the mission of the Church. Remember that all contributions received via mail, drop box, and online giving support that mission.

We celebrate this weekend Mother’s Day. On behalf of Fr. Deo, Deacon Danny and myself, we extend prayers to all mothers, expectant mothers, and all those that act in a motherly way. Like many other things, motherhood has evolved differently over the past few months. May God grant

you insight, compassion, and patience as you perform your motherly duties. And this weekend especially, be sure to carve out some time to rest, reflect, and relax... you've earned it!

Easter Blessing

Fr. Workman  
Pastor