

Dear Parish Family,

On May 26, the Diocese of Trenton announced a set of protocol changes as the faithful are encouraged to return to in-church Masses. We wish to share with you these important revisions:

The Bishops of New Jersey have ended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation effective **June 5-6, 2021, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ**. The faithful are to return to the practice of participating at weekly celebration of Mass in church. As always the case, the obligation does not apply to the sick, those with underlying health conditions, and those who remain fearful of COVID-19 transmission.

Following Governor Murphy's announcement on May 28<sup>th</sup>, the mandate requiring the wearing of masks and social distancing is lifted. Yet, recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic remains active, wearing a mask is an option for those who wish to do so. Use your best judgment to protect your own health and the health of your neighbors.

In light of these of these developments, we wish to announce the following:

- We have removed all the cords blocking the pews in church; all pews are now open
- Sanitizing of pews will be discontinued
- Hand sanitizers will still be available at all church entrances
- Blessed water will be returned to the fonts

#### **CELEBRATION OF MASS**

- We will continue with the present weekend Mass schedule: Saturday Vigil at 5 pm, Sunday at 7, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mass will continued to be livestreamed.
- The Presentation of Gifts during the time of the Offertory will resume
- Liturgical ministers are encouraged to resume their ministry---we are also in need of new volunteers as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, choir, altar servers. Please call the parish office or speak to one of the priests. Training will be provided.

#### **RECONCILIATION**

- We will return to the use of the confessional beginning this weekend, May 29-30. The wearing of a mask in the confessional is optional.
- The time for confessions on Saturdays will resume from **4:00 to 4:45 beginning Saturday, June 4.**

“Thanks be to God” for these revisions and this good news we share with you today! As we return to pre-pandemic normalcy, we warmly welcome you back to Saint Rose Parish especially those who have not yet returned to the celebration of the Eucharist. Thank you for the support and cooperation you have shown during these challenging months of the pandemic. Let us continue “...to know and to teach our faith, to proclaim and witness the gospel through Word and Sacrament, and Prayer, and to serve others with hope and love as disciples of Jesus Christ.”(Parish Mission Statement)

Gratefully, with our love and prayers,  
Father Ed and Father Chris

