

May 25<sup>th</sup> Letter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our public Masses for the weekend will begin this coming Saturday/Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost. There are some guidelines from the Bishop regarding how we are to proceed with our Masses:

1. We can only use 50% of our seating capacity so that we can maintain social distancing. Therefore, we have to leave every other pew open. The ushers will help to make sure that this requirement is fulfilled.
2. There will be no passing of the collection basket. Instead four baskets will be placed near the entrances: two on the sides and two near the front entrance. You can put both the offertory for the school and the parish in the same basket but in separate clearly marked envelopes.
3. There will be no shaking of hands nor congregating inside of any public areas of the Church. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own hand-sanitizer and wear face masks.
4. Communion may be received at the rail either on the hand or directly on the tongue. Bishop included in his directives that if someone receives on the tongue they are to "tilt their head back and extend their tongue".
5. In this initial period of beginning public Masses we will not be using any servers.
6. If someone is fearful of going to Mass because they are in an "at-risk" group they are dispensed from attending. At risk individuals also includes those who care for people in at risk groups. The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass remains in effect for everyone else as well during this initial period of returning to the public celebrations of the Mass.
7. Since we only have one Mass on Sundays at our various Churches it will not be necessary to remove the books in the pews since no one will be using them after the Mass until the following Sunday.
8. Holy Water fonts will remain empty.

First Holy Communion will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> for those who have been prepared in our school. The Mass for the First Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. at St.Sylvester's and at 10:30 a.m. at St.John the Baptist. Zayne Rosnik from our school will be entering the Church this coming Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. He has already been baptized in another denomination but will make his profession of faith in the Catholic Church and I will confirm him in the faith and during the Mass give him his first Holy Communion. Also, in Sardis, Karen Riggerbach will be receiving her First Holy Communion at the 12:30 p.m. Mass this coming Sunday. As for those who have prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation, I am still awaiting word from the Bishop whether he will have confirmations this year or wait until next year.

Next Sunday I should be able to have a letter in the bulletin but since we do not have a bulletin this week I wanted to leave you with these important items as we begin our public celebrations of the Mass on May 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> for Pentecost. Of course we have been celebrating Mass during the week publicly since May 18<sup>th</sup> and will continue to do so. There is one change in the weekday schedule and that is that on Mondays the Mass at St.Sylvester's will be at 5:30 p.m. instead of in the morning.

God bless and keep you in His merciful love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Timothy Davison