



July 28, 2020

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

I hope this finds you well during these extraordinary pandemic times as we continue to draw strength from the Eucharist; the heart and soul of our Christian community. I am pleased to announce that next weekend we will complete our Mass re-opening by reinstating the 5:00pm Sunday liturgy.

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.” Matthew 13:31-32*

Let us take heart from the parable of the mustard seed. The mustard seed gives us hope that God will bless our small beginnings, with Mass outdoors, and give us growth. St. Paul does the sowing, his contemporary ‘Apollos’ does the watering, and only God gives the growth.

Please note that we have provided 30 large market umbrellas; or shall we say parasols, since they protect us from the sun. You will notice them throughout the gathering plaza and strategically placed on the grassy hillside areas. Do please bring your own chair when you arrive for weekend Masses. Although we are not pleased to be banished from our building, Mass outside is the safest place to gather for Eucharist. Now with the afforded shade and a gentle breeze continually purifying the air we breathe, we are kept both safe and cool. We will continue to live-stream the 9:00am Mass each Sunday for those at home.

Thank you for your cooperation by utilizing the hand sanitizer, wearing masks, and observing social distancing. Families alone may cluster. We will continue to receive Holy Communion after the final blessing to avoid any other form of clustering, by departing directly to the parking lot. We pray especially for the 100+ people in Scripps Ranch who have contracted COVID-19. It is incumbent upon us to be mindful of others’ safety; our single most gracious act of Christian love, by wearing a facial covering to protect one another, as well as ourselves.

Our school has also been impacted by recent pandemic developments. We had been planning, like many other Catholic schools, to open mid-August. So much work has been done this summer; including installation of Plexiglas barriers around each student desk. The faculty and staff have worked relentlessly, and are crestfallen as Governor Newsom announced that in-person teaching in the classroom is to be replaced by distance learning at home. I feel sorry for Principal Mrs. O’Connell, and her team, who have invested so much of themselves to be fully prepared to open classes in the fall – all for naught. We are still hoping and praying that COVID-19 numbers go down, to allow in-person teaching. Despite the new order, we are planning to celebrate regular class Masses on the field; as recommended through the Diocese\*. My heart goes out to all you parents and your children, for having to endure this further trial. There is talk of a waiver, but details are yet forthcoming - be assured we will pursue every option. Registrations are still open for the school, with waiting lists for some grades. In addition, we are currently accepting registrations for fall Faith Formation at the church. Confirmation registrations will be opening soon; possibly by next week. For more information, please contact us.

We are grateful to our Sunday Mass supply priests, Monsignor Michael Gallagher and Reverend James Rafferty, who also help with weekday Masses. Our gratitude also extends to Deacon Ron and Deacon Doug. Father Paul Connell was due to join us this summer as well, but sadly had to cancel his trip. He sends warm greetings.

Many thanks to you, dear people of God, for your continued support of our Sunday Offertory. I am deeply grateful for your great faith and sacrificial giving, especially during these tough times. May God bless you all with peace, relaxation, and renewal of spirit during this season of summer.

“Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.” Matthew 6:31

Yours in Christ,

*Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin*

Very Rev. Nicholas P. Clavin

*\*The First School Mass for the entire student body and parents will be August 21, 2020.*