



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

May 15, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

It seems that there is at last a light at the end of the tunnel. The transmission rate of Covid-19 has dropped to a level that puts Los Angeles County into the least restrictive tier. Anyone who wishes to be vaccinated has the opportunity. Our local drug stores encourage people to come in and get vaccinated. I have seen people at church that have been away for over a year, and they often share with me how excited they are to be back now that they are vaccinated. Face coverings are still required to be worn during Mass, but the restrictions are loosening.

One of the saddest parts of the Covid-19 pandemic has been how isolated people have been. They seemed prisoners in their own homes. At the very outset of this plague, Archbishop Gomez said that, for the safety of all, Eucharistic Ministers could not bring Communion to the homebound. Only the priests. He even cautioned against the older priests visiting the sick. I guess that as a septuagenarian I fit into that category. The younger priests should do that. Fathers Kalu and Park were more than happy to bring them Communion. I still chose to do it as well since I am in good physical health. Still, people who had been used to getting Communion regularly on Sundays from our Eucharistic Ministers did not have that opportunity. The time of Covid-19 was a time that the homebound needed the Eucharist more than ever.

I remember that one of our parishioners was dying of Covid-19, and the facility would not allow me to bring the last rites. I understood the caution that lay behind that. So, all I could do was talk to the person over the phone with whatever comfort I could offer and give a blessing from afar. That pained me.

I was pleased to read the most recent guidelines from the Archdiocese that said that Eucharistic Ministers to the sick could once again resume their ministry. I developed a protocol for them to follow to assure the safety of themselves and the homebound. No Eucharistic Minister could represent the parish unless he or she were vaccinated. Happily, over a dozen had been vaccinated and were happy to be back serving the homebound once again. It began the first Sunday of May.

On Saturday, June 5, at 10:00 am, there will be a Mass here with communal Anointing of the Sick. I am hopeful that many who have been confined for so long will be a part of this celebration. Since the church is large with a lot of room for social distancing, it will be a safe venue. If you or anyone you know wishes to be a part, please come. It should be a healing event in so many ways.

Let us continue to do our part to bring this terrible pandemic to halt.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor