



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

March 15, 2022

Dear Parishioners:

During the time of Lent, we as a community of faith have been on a journey of reflection and renewal of our lives as Catholic Christians. Part of that experience is walking alongside those preparing to be received into the Church—either by baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist, or those already one in baptism with us by profession of faith, confirmation, and Eucharist. This year Easter is late, April 17.

March has been quite a significant month. Two years ago Covid-19 forced us to shut down the church on March 17. It remained shut until June, when we were able to open the church to a limited number of worshipers. However, thanks to the commitment of the volunteers of our video ministry, on March 18 we began to livestream Mass every day and have been doing so every day ever since. In July, we were forced to close again but allowed to offer Mass outdoors to a larger number of worshipers. Last year around this time the church was again open, but worshipers were required to wear masks.

Until this month, I had been greeting people outside church with my mask on to remind them that it is required in church. At the beginning of this month Los Angeles County gave permission for optional mask wearing indoors. As I put out a sign indicating that mask wearing is now optional in church, many people arrived for Mass without masks and big smiles. One even commented to me that he was happy to be able to see me smile as well. I am also aware that many of you still do not feel comfortable participating at Mass unless you are masked. Please know that it is entirely your choice. Even though all priests and Eucharistic Ministers are required to be fully vaccinated, I have asked them to wear masks when they give out Communion, so that all feel comfortable. I am hoping that the numbers of Covid-19 victims will continue to drop and more will feel comfortable participating at Mass. I want all back.

There are just a few weeks of Lent left. As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, may we enter ourselves into the spirit of Lent by overcoming our obstacles of sin and blindness and be born anew into the life of the paschal mystery.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor