



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

June 15, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

By the time you receive this letter, we will know the guidelines for the state of California regarding masks and social gatherings. I can assure you that we will respond as soon as we can to the changing conditions. Ours is one of the slowest states to open up yet at the same time one with one of the lowest rates of covid infection. I think this is due to the numbers of people who have received the vaccination. Palos Verdes has consistently shown an even lower rate of infection and higher percentage of vaccination.

Earlier this month we made coffee available for those attending Sunday Mass. As people have been vaccinated and are coming back, many want to socialize afterwards with friends whom they may not have seen for a while. It is our first step in returning to normalcy. On the first Saturday of June, we re-instituted the tradition of celebrating a Mass semiannually with communal anointing of the sick. I was not sure if many would show up. Was I wrong! We anointed over 40 people on that day. Perhaps their vaccinations emboldened them. I really enjoyed seeing many of them for the first time in over a year.

In anticipation of a return to normalcy, your parish has tentatively scheduled a big celebration in September. Just as the Dodgers had their re-opening day celebration on June 15, we hope to have something similar. Throughout the summer you will be getting more information on this as things develop. A joint committee of the Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff are working on it.

I hope that this summer you will have the opportunity to get away for some vacation or have an Independence Day barbecue with family and friends. If you are away, remember the web site www.masstimes.org. You put in the zip code where you are, and it will list all the parishes nearby. It is quite possible that by then the dispensation from Sunday Mass attendance will be lifted. Whether it is or not, it is spiritually helpful to be nourished even while on vacation.

In the past I have recommended books for summer reading. Allow me to add a few for your consideration: *Abe: Abraham Lincoln in His Times*, by David S. Reynolds; *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*, by Andrew Roberts; *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family*, by Condoleeza Rice; *Facing the Mountain: A True story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II*, by Daniel James Brown.

Have a restful time, and may Christ continue to lead and guide us as we await an end to this terrible pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor