



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

February 15, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

In last month's letter I shared with you the process in deciding when and how to begin offering church services indoors. We had been successfully celebrating daily Mass indoors, but I decided to wait for a while before moving confessions and weekend Masses indoors. Having had time to assess how these daily Masses went and viewing the outdoor Masses in inclement weather, I decided to open the church for all celebrations on January 30. The maintenance crew is sanitizing the church after each service. It has proven easier for them to do than when Mass was celebrated outdoors. Social distancing is maintained with mandatory covering of the nose and mouth throughout Mass.

We will continue to offer Communion after the livestream Masses to those who wish to come but still do not feel comfortable participating at the live Mass. I need to respect their concerns while at the same time offering a safe opportunity to worship to those who do wish to come.

Lent begins on February 17. This means that by the time you read this letter, you are already in the midst of it. Ash Wednesday has its special characteristic this year because of the need of social distancing. We planned creative ways of the imposition of ashes. I hope you were able to take advantage of it. As in the past, a 6:30 a.m. Mass will take place Monday through Friday.

Next month from March 14-16 there will be a 3-day parish retreat conducted by Father Patrick Dooling, a priest of the Diocese of Monterrey and an Oblate of the Camaldolese Hermitage in Big Sur. The theme is "Surrender." He will preach at all the weekend Masses March 13-14 about the retreat. If you do not wish to come to church, know that it will be livestreamed each evening. Remember that the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed as well, so you can get a chance to know him before the retreat. A brochure is available both at the church and parish office and on our parish web site.

These are certainly challenging times. I hope that you who are over 65 will be able to get the vaccine soon and that those who are under 65 will not have to wait too long. Meanwhile, let us be cautious. May this Lenten season of penance and sacrifice be a special moment of grace for you.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor