



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

November 15, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

In last month's letter I expressed my concern for our sister parish in Cudahy, Sagrado Corazón y Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Members of our Pastoral Council went there and visited with the pastor and people one Sunday last month. They came back with a very positive report. The parish has always relied on the work of their volunteers since for many years until their church was built, they had Sunday Mass in the parking lot. The pastor expressed gratitude for what the people of St. John Fisher had done in the past to enable the church. He said that his parish did not need any support, financial or otherwise, at this time.

Since Governor Newsom last July ordered all churches to be shut, we have been celebrating all public Masses outside in the plaza area. The number of those attending continues to grow. We are still livestreaming a private Mass each day from the church. I am pleased by the number of people who have taken advantage of that. After the livestream Mass is over, the priest goes outside for about 25 minutes to distribute Communion to those watching from home.

I had been hoping that we could return to the church as the weather got colder. It has become obvious that that would not happen. So, I ordered two large tents to be erected in the plaza area. This will provide shelter from the rain. Since Mass must be outdoors, we could not have walls. Once the tents arrived, we moved the altar to a different location in order to maximize the number of people under cover. With the end of daylight-saving time, evening Mass begins after sunset. Fortunately, the area already had outdoor lights. Our maintenance crew serviced them to provide maximum illumination. In addition, they installed LED lights above the area where the musicians do their work, and a stage was added to give them better visibility.

The church employees have continued to adjust to the situation as warranted. I am grateful for all they have done. I also am grateful to those volunteers who have stepped forward and done their part. I include the lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, and all who do their part to make this happen. As the number of Mass participants grows, I would like to add another Sunday morning Mass, perhaps at 7:30. This will depend on us getting more volunteers. Extra help will be especially needed for the Christmas celebrations. If you would like to help us out, I would welcome it. We are committed to providing the necessary procedures to assure a safe environment for volunteers and participants.

Let us pray for one another, especially for those affected by the corona virus. May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor