



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

September 15, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

This has been a summer like none other due to COVID-19. I hope you are coping well.

We are at the mercy of the state and county in relationship to what services we can offer. Archbishop Gomez has offered us guidelines as well. Most recently he indicated that although the church was closed, we could offer services outdoors. Daily Mass is being celebrated in the plaza area at 5:15 p.m., and weekend Masses at 5:00 Saturday and Sunday evening, and at 11:00 Sunday morning. I have been pleased to see the growing number of people attending our outdoor Masses. People have been very creative in finding shady areas to sit. I appreciate the work of our volunteers to assist you in these efforts. We have maintained the usual hours for confessions but are hearing them in the columbarium area rather than the church. Since all our cameras are in the church, we have continued to celebrate privately one Mass each morning, so that we can continue to livestream Mass to you: daily at 8:00 and Sunday at 9:00. We offer Communion in the plaza area for 20 minutes after Mass, so that those viewing Mass from home can receive it.

Bishop Marc Trudeau has come to the parish twice to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to our youths: Saturday morning, August 22, at 11:00, and Friday evening, September 11, at the 5:15 Mass. Between those two celebrations, almost all our youths were confirmed who were supposed to be confirmed in Church last May.

On September 1 we had transition of associate pastors. Ordinarily, that takes place in July, but the coronavirus caused Archbishop Gomez to delay the ordination of priests to August. Even then, it took place outside with a limited number. Father Thomas Park, our new associate pastor, was ordained on August 8. I watched the ceremony on live stream. Father Francis Aguilar was transferred to St. Mary Magdalene Church, Camarillo. I am grateful for his 4 years of ministry here. I know how much his gifts were appreciated by you. I regret that the corona virus prevented us from having a reception for him. However, on his last weekend here he spoke at all the Masses, and those present had the opportunity to express their gratitude.

Each priest has his own gifts. I know that you will embrace Father Park with his gifts as you did Father Francis during his time here. I look forward to working with Father Park.

Although I can only greet you and see you with your face coverings, I nonetheless look forward to seeing you whether outdoors or, I hope soon, on your way into the church. Let us pray for an end to this terrible pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor