



ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH/ST. JOHN MISSION

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June 27, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This will be just a short note this week to catch you up on what is going on at St Mary Magdalen Parish and St. John Mission.

We have been celebrating Mass in the new church for the past two weeks, this Sunday being our third weekend in the church, and we are still working out a few glitches to assure we are keeping people safe with regular cleaning and social distancing. We still have to sign up for Mass before noon on Saturday and we are still needing to be careful to keep the recommended 6 feet distance from others. We are still required to wear masks. But once these things are accepted (that's just the way things have to be right now), Mass and the celebration of the sacraments proceed smoothly, and these restrictions present just slight encumbrance.

It is wonderful to see our parishioners again, and it is a great joy to be able to celebrate Mass in our newly remodeled church. Next week I will present, online, a video that will show you the church and the measures we are taking to keep you safe as you come back to church.

We have scheduled Masses for the celebration of first Communions, confirmations, and the receptions and baptisms of our RCIA catechumens and candidates.

All of our regular celebrations of the sacraments are now taking place. This Saturday, I was able to celebrate our first infant baptism in the new church. Confessions are taking place at their regular times, and daily Mass is receiving any who wish to attend. Our regular schedule of Sunday Mass is also taking place. We have not yet reached a point where seating is full, so we are allowing all who sign up to be seated in the church. We will only use the gym or the parish hall if we go beyond the 200 people who, at this time, are allowed to be seated in the church.

I had a meeting with the leadership council at St. John Mission this past week and it was determined we will resume Mass there on August 9th. I must give the caveat that this date will depend on whether there will be enough people willing to volunteer for the various ministries, including Hospitality, needed to safely accommodate a return to Mass.

The leadership of St. John Mission will be sending a survey to members asking for their input and willingness to help out with the ministries needed to come together safely. I hope and pray people will respond generously.

Please continue to support our Parish and Mission communities, and if you haven't already done so, support the Annual Catholic Appeal.

My prayers continue to be with you all. May the Good and Gracious Lord bless you and keep you safe as we sojourn through these trying times.

Fr. Hans M. Olson
Pastor, St. Mary Magdalen Parish/St. John Mission