

May 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

### **Masses and Confessions**

As you have heard in the news, the Dioceses of Joliet will begin having Masses open to the public again some time after May 30<sup>th</sup>. Initially and until the State of Illinois begins phase 4 of the Governor's re-opening plan, we are only allowed to permit 10 participants per Mass. Saint Petronille has taken significant precautions already including sanitizing pews, doors and other surfaces daily and will implement all those procedures the Diocese outlines in the future. We will keep you posted regarding future developments and the procedures that will be followed. We are permitted to celebrate weddings, funerals and baptisms while observing the restrictions, i.e., no more than 10 people, masks, etc.

We celebrated May Crowning on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. You can watch the LiveStream ceremony on our YouTube page. Simply do a search on "Saint Petronille YouTube."

### **New Assistant Principal**

We are glad to announce the hiring of a new assistant principal for our parish school. Mr. Keith Matune will be taking over for Mrs. Tricia Weis beginning July 1. Mr. Matune brings a wealth of teaching, business and even legal experience to the job. One particular stand out of Mr. Matune were the large number of letters of glowing recommendation which came from his fellow teachers with whom he has a very positive relationship.

### **Graduation Mass**

We congratulate our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will celebrate their Mass of graduation on May 27<sup>th</sup>. We will offer a LiveStreamed commencement ceremony followed by various celebratory activities all observing the required pandemic guidelines. Please keep our graduates and their parents in your prayers. Even though our celebration will not be able to executed in the same way as past years due to the pandemic, we are proud of them and wish them all God's choicest blessings.

### **First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

Saint Petronille had to postpone our First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremony. We have been working diligently to work out a solution and alternate date given the uncertain future we share. I will be sending a letter to parents of First Communicants next week with details of our solution. Please watch for it. Regarding Confirmation, we are waiting to receive some direction from the Diocese. Please remember all of our patient Confirmands and First Communicants in your prayers.

### **PPP Loan**

Several news items have been written recently about Catholic churches receiving Payroll Protection Loans from the Federal Government. Through Easter Sunday, Saint Petronille Parish had been experiencing a significant decrease in our collections and a great deal of uncertainty about the future. During this time, at the direction of the Diocese of Joliet, Saint Petronille applied for and recently received a Payroll Protection Loan equal to 2.5 months of payroll and benefits for our employees. Although there is some possibility that this loan would be forgiven, there is no guarantee of this loan

forgiveness and monies not needed to meet our obligations would need to be returned to the federal government. In other words, this is a loan and must be treated as such. This is not free money. This loan does, however, help the parish maintain proper cash flow in order to continue to pay our employees, maintain essential services and not contribute to the increasing unemployment in our community.

Although none of us can foretell what lies down the line, our parishioners have responded generously to keep Saint Petronille solvent, we met our budget for the Easter collection and we have closed the gap in our Sunday revenue Year-to-Date. Our shortfall is now less than \$6,000. Wow! Thank you! I know our priests, teachers and staff are all grateful in that we have been able to continue to pay them as they work hard to teach our children, maintain worship services on-line and reach out to parishioners in need. You may remember from one of my letters earlier this year that the parish did need to take out a low interest loan in the amount of approximately \$250,000 in order to replace the failing concrete wall on the north end of our property line. Although things look good considering we are in a global pandemic, the parish continues to look to the future and is deeply grateful for all your sacrifices in continuing to support your parish.

**Thank you!**

Thank you to the parish for your on-going generosity. Our collections Year-to-Date remain only slightly under the budgeted revenue for the year.

May Almighty God bless you and keep you.

Prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Milota