

May 4, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

### **Churches Declared Essential Businesses and Welcome Home!**

Welcome home!

You may have already heard that churches have been declared an essential business pursuant to a petition filed by Mr. Peter Breen asking that churches be designated “essential businesses” by the governor. The governor has complied with this legal requirement; however, safe practices, limited numbers and social distancing must still be observed. Hence, beginning today, Monday morning, May 4<sup>th</sup>, Saint Petronille will be open from 9 am until 4 pm (Monday through Saturday) with the following restrictions:

- The order says leaving home is allowed “to engage in the free exercise of religion, provided that such exercise must comply with Social Distancing Requirements and the limit of no more than ten people in keeping with CDC guidelines for the protection of public health.”

Therefore:

- No more than 10 people are permitted in church at the same time. Please limit your visits so that as many as possible can make their visit.
- Masks must be worn by all those in the church during their stay. (Provide your own mask.)
- Those in the church must keep no less than six feet distance from one another.
- Bring a sanitizing wipe with you and wipe down the area in which you were seated as you leave.

Regarding Masses, the Bishop is presently consulting with his advisors regarding procedures for the safe distribution of communion and procedures by which to observe the limitation of numbers designated by the governor. Until this is done, the church will continue to be closed during Mass times, but Masses will continue to be livestreamed.

Regarding confessions, we will be publishing more information soon as we develop safe procedures by which to offer this sacrament. Don't worry. We will not livestream your confessions. 😊

Although our Worship commission has been working for a couple weeks to iron out protocols for such an order, we had not anticipated a restoration prior to May 30<sup>th</sup> so we please ask you to be patient so that we can get individual back into church both safely and soon.

### **Parish Offices**

Parish Offices and our Parish School will remain closed for the time being; however, we will continue to respond to phone messages and emails.

### **Bishop Daniel Conlon**

Bishop Conlon, the Bishop of Joliet who has been on-leave for the past few months, resigned as Bishop of Joliet and the Holy Father accepted his resignation this morning. Bishop Conlon thanked the wonderful people of Joliet for their support and stated that, at the age of 71, he finds that he is simply no longer able to run a large diocese. We wish Bishop Conlon well and please keep our Diocese in your

prayers as the Holy Father chooses a new Bishop for the Diocese. Bishop Pates will continue to administer the Diocese until a new Bishop is appointed.

Please watch for more information in the coming day.

May Almighty God bless you and keep you.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Milota