

My dear friends in Christ,

FINALLY!

This coming weekend of All Saints Day, October 31/November 1, is the REOPENING of the Church for INDOOR MASS! I am excited for you and for the community!

The gospel last Sunday talks about LOVE, loving God and neighbor! Certainly this is a great challenge for all of us. Are we really practicing Christian love?

In the First Reading, we are challenged to be respectful, kind, not to molest or oppress our neighbors. It means that we are not to abuse or exploit anyone, but we need to be welcoming and loving.

During this Coronavirus pandemic, loving God in your neighbor has become so political. One example is in the area of wearing mask. Wearing mask should not be a political discourse. But many of us have made it into a political one. As Christians, wearing mask is about the command to love your neighbor. It is about being a good neighbor!

It is very disturbing right now that we have to be careful what to say and not say! Someone said to me, "They are watching!" This is really sad. We are now in this environment where we who were decent people are no longer that. **We have lost our sense of respect for one another. We have resulted in name calling and insults.** That's not who we are as people, as children of God! We are better than this. But of course, during the time of Jesus, he experienced the same kind of scrutiny from the Pharisees and the scribes. **They were watching his every move.**

I hope this gospel will awaken us and inspire us to love not to hate, be more kind to one another and more respectful of one another.

What is happening in the world we live in right now is a sad commentary of the kind of person we have become. We have allowed ourselves to be vicious, mean, irresponsible, careless and uncaring. I am so ashamed of the things I have witnessed in our society today. We pick and choose the moral guidelines of our faith. **Is being Christian has no more meaning in the way we think and act?**

The gospel that Jesus preached in Galilee is about love. Love is everything. But how could I say that I love God and hate my neighbor? We are always judging people! There is so much finger pointing, irrationality and ignorance. These things have no place in our community!

I believe that for us to survive this pandemic and I am not talking about this Coronavirus but I am talking about this pandemic that has resulted in family and friends no longer talking with each other but now talking against each other. Death in relationships! This is what bothers me a lot. There is great suspicion from many corners of the world. We must do something with this environment. It can't continue! The onslaught of negativity that we hear every day has become the norm. It is smelly and has given us too many headaches. I don't want to be part of this! Do you?

This is our REOPENING SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY:

4:30pm -----BLESSING OF OUR NEW DOORS

5pm----- ENGLISH MASS

7pm-----SPANISH MASS

SUNDAY:

8am-----ENGLISH MASS

10am-----ENGLISH MASS (ALSO LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK)

12nn-----ENGLISH OUTDOOR MASS (SCHOOL YARD)

1-2pm-----COMMUNION for those who attend the LIVESTREAM MASS (CHURCH)

5:30pm-----ENGLISH MASS

WEEKDAY MASSES:

9am-----Monday through Saturday

The Church will be opened 30 minutes before the mass. Following the guidelines of the County and of the diocese, we will maintain social distancing, Face Coverings or masks will be required at all times. Persons younger than two years old are exempt, sanitize your hands.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- 1) You will not be able to sit wherever you want to sit during this time. The usher(s) will be there to escort you to your place.
- 2) Families in the same household can sit together.
- 3) ONE ENTRANCE DOOR, ONE EXIT DOOR! You will be coming from the Fernandez side of the church and exit to the Tennent side of the church.
- 4) Restrooms will be available. You are asked to bring your sanitizer and your wipes.
- 5) Elderly or those vulnerable are excused from coming to mass. If you want to receive communion in your home, please call the office.
- 6) We will check your temperature before you enter the church.
- 7) Collection basket will be placed after the entrance on your right.
- 8) You will receive communion after the final blessing. You will be instructed when that happens. After you have received, please go straight to the exit door.
- 9) First 100 will be allowed inside.
- 10) CONFESSION: please call the office at 510-741-4900 to make appointment with me or with Fr. Francisco and Fr. Anthony. But ask for Fr. Francisco and Fr. Anthony first. For Spanish speaking members of our community, Fr. Francisco is still in Mexico.
- 11) If a member of your household (including yourself) is unwell or sick, please stay home.

I am looking forward to seeing you this weekend in the church. **PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR NEIGHBORS.** So many are still not aware of what's happening in our faith community. **We must communicate this GOOD NEWS to THEM.** I hope that with your help, many will come to know more about it.

Please be respectful and be kind to our ushers. Exercise lots of patience and understanding. I hope we can make adjustments after this coming weekend and try to improve the set up and procedures. **This will not be an easy weekend in terms of the logistics, but we will do everything we can to make it happen with YOUR GREAT COOPERATION.**

During the lockdown, you have been very supportive and understanding. You showed great patience and tolerance!

On the behalf of the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, Finance Council and the Facilities Committee, I would like to thank you all. One FAITH, One LOVE in CHRIST, we will RISE AGAIN

Your servant,

Fr. Geoffrey