

June 12, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus!

As we have been making a slow and steady progress in getting back to our regular schedule of both spiritual and social activities, we owe a big 'THANKS' to all who stepped up to make this happen. Unfortunately, we were totally unprepared for the recent development of activities/unrest throughout the country/world after what happened in Minneapolis, two weeks ago.

In their new pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, the Catholic Bishops of the United States invite conversion of hearts, minds, and institutions in order to address the evil of racism that still exists in our communities. May we all rise to the occasion to stand united in working toward building a just, loving and peaceful society!

**II.** Gladly we have moved into the second phase of reopening which allows us to come together, especially to worship our Lord, in larger groups (up to 250). We will start having our parish meetings in the conference room. Please refer to the bulletin for all updated information. Beginning this weekend, we can accommodate 50-60 people in our church for the masses, of course with certain directives and guidelines to be adhered to.

1. Here is the Mass schedule. During the week (Tuesday through Friday) @ 8 am in the chapel; Saturday Vigil mass @ 6:30 pm; and Sunday masses @ 8:30 am & 12:30 pm.
2. You will still need to call the office to sign up, with your names and phone numbers, for any of the masses that you want to attend.
3. In case you failed to sign up, you may show up 15 minutes before the start of the mass to be on the stand-by list. In any case, we will collect your names and phone numbers.
4. The dispensation from the Sunday obligation is still in place.
5. The monitors at the entrance of the church will remind you of all the procedures to be followed. (Sanitizing your hands on arrival, using the prayer sheets, sanitizing the pew with the disinfecting wipes after the mass and exiting through the back door, etc.)
6. We strongly recommend using your own facial masks during the mass.
7. If you want to receive communion on your tongue, please wait in line, respecting the social distancing, until everyone receives communion on hands.

**III.** We have been working on the project of installing the new Tabernacle and the Crucifix in our church. Bishop Peter has gladly accepted the invitation to grace the occasion on Friday, June 19. He will preside over the mass at 6 pm and offer the blessing. It is a spiritual and historical coincidence that, the same day will be the feast of Sacred Heart (Parish feast) and mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our church.

We all owe a big 'THANKS' to two generous donors in our parish community who have contributed to the entire project. We will have a plaque at the back of the pedestal for the tabernacle in memory of those parishioners and we shall honor them by our prayers. It is a great blessing that our parish has got such great people who keep the parish family and its needs very close to their hearts. God bless them!

**IV.** Archbishop Sample has placed Sacred Heart Parish with St. Mary by the Sea (Rockaway) and St. Joseph (Cloverdale) under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Mariano Escano (Fr. Maro) from July 1, 2020. Fr. Macdonald Akuti will continue to serve as the Parochial Vicar here. I am assigned to take the pastoral leadership of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Sherwood.

Personally, I take this occasion to thank God for having given me the opportunity to serve here in all three churches, and Archbishop Sample for allowing me to serve here as parish administrator and the Vicar of this North Coast Vicariate. Also I want to sincerely thank each and every member of these churches for the warmth of love that I have truly experienced and the support that you all gave me in carrying out my pastoral duties. Beyond any doubt, I will cherish all those moments and count them gratefully as special blessings for my future ministry. While I promise to keep you all in my prayers, especially on the altar when I offer the Sacrifice of Mass, may I request you to keep me in your prayers!

THANK YOU!

May God bless us all, and may our Blessed Mother continue to protect and guide us by her powerful intercession!

United in Christ,

Fr. Amal