

May 27, 2020

My Friends,

As you know, the Bishop has opened up the Church in the Diocese of Syracuse for the celebration of the sacraments. The opening comes with strict limitations. We can celebrate Mass publicly, however we continue to be limited to 10 people in the building. That number includes myself and those assisting at Mass. We are working on a set of protocols so that we can meet all the requirements developed by the office of the Bishop.

One of the hardest issues is creating a system for individuals and families to “sign up” for a Mass. When the state allows us to move to 25% capacity, it sounds strange, but people will have to register for Mass. Everyone should have a mask and we are asking that you bring your own hand sanitizer. The parish will have to be disinfected after every Mass. So Mass times will be changing. The bishop has asked that there be at least two hours between each celebration to allow for cleaning and airing out the church. The “new normal” is here.

I am not planning on opening this weekend. Please join us on our Facebook page or on YouTube for our celebration of Pentecost. After speaking with Fr. Ryan at IC and Fr. Kevin at St. James, we are all aiming at the Feast of the Holy Trinity or The Body and Blood of Christ weekend to open. Hopefully, I’ll have additional information I can share with you at the end of Mass this weekend.

***“Make every effort to preserve the unity which has the Spirit as its origin  
and peace as its binding force”*** ***Eph. 4:3***

As we observe the Feast of Pentecost this weekend we pray that the Holy Spirit rekindle the fire of faith in the Church and the world. As the Spirit sustained the early Church in all its trials, may it sustain us and bring us together again as the body of Christ.

What a year to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Not what we expected but truly something historic. I look forward to seeing all again soon. Stay safe!

Blessings,

Fr. Brian