

## Dear Friends,

Many of you have asked me about when we will return to having public Mass in church. Bishop Tobin has told us that it is his fervent hope that we will be able to resume public Mass beginning the last weekend of this month of May. That being said, we are still awaiting official word and directives from the Diocese of Providence.

My main reason for writing today is not so much to give you details on how we will go about resuming Mass, but rather to make a simple plea for patience and cooperation as we do. Regardless as to when we resume, things are definitely going to be very different for a time. Among other things, we will most certainly have to limit the number of people at each Mass; we will have to adhere to physical distancing; we will need to tweak the way our Communion lines flow, keeping physical distancing in mind. In short, it will be cumbersome and therefore will require great patience and cooperation from all of us.

Many of you have proposed very good ideas for when we return; however, it would be impossible for me to incorporate all of your ideas. When we do return, I'm sure many of you will have ideas as to how we can do things better. I assure you that I always like to listen to ideas and criticism, but I would only ask that it be done in the spirit of charity. I can't promise that we are going to do everything in the most efficient way possible, although we will certainly try. What I can promise is that we are going to do our best to make it as seamless and as prayerful as possible.

I assure you that I will update you as I am updated by the Diocese. The main goal we all have is to get back to Mass as a community, to celebrate the Eucharist together, and once again be able to receive Our Lord Jesus in Holy Communion. When we do come together again, let us be sure to practice love and kindness as well as patience and cooperation. As St. John tells us, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God..." (1 John 4:7).

Be assured of my daily prayers for all of you.

God bless you,  
Fr. Michael Najim  
Pastor