

May 29, 2020

Dear St. Joseph Church & School Community,

I am happy to report that this Sunday, May 31st, we will offer two outdoor Masses (10:30a.m. and 12:30p.m.) on the upper soccer field to celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. With the announcement that Baltimore County has lifted the ban on gatherings over ten people, including religious services, the day I had been praying for since the lockdown occurred back in mid-March has finally arrived. We have posted on our website both a video tutorial as to what is being asked of us as we return to public worship as well as a link to a document from the Archdiocese of Baltimore regarding Phase II requirements for liturgies. Phase II begins on Saturday, May 30th, in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. What is nice about the outdoor Mass option is that there are no number restrictions on attendance if we practice the proper social distancing. In addition, facemasks are not strictly required although they are still encouraged when celebrating outdoor Masses. We will begin offering Daily Mass on Monday, June 1st, at the regular time of 7:30a.m. On Saturday, June 6th, we will offer the Vigil Mass at 4:30p.m. at 1/3 church capacity. This will be the case on Sundays for the 7:00a.m. and 8:30a.m. Mass moving forward. Weather permitting, we will continue to offer the 10:30a.m. and 12:30p.m. Masses on the upper soccer field.

We could not have pulled this off without the assistance of many parishioners, representing various parish ministries. I want to thank the Knights of Columbus for helping with parking, the Hospitality ministry, Couples for Christ for setting-up the sound system, the Arts and Environment ministry for creating beautiful floral arrangements for Pentecost, as well as some of our ushers who will assist as well. At the 12:30p.m.

Mass, we will celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our parish as seven different languages are spoken during the Universal Prayer. I want to also thank Fr. Francis, our facilities team, and front-office staff for all they have done to make our Pentecost outdoor Masses a reality. Please bring your lawn chair or a blanket on Sunday. The weather is supposed to be beautiful, so come out and celebrate all that unites us as one community of faith. For those who do not feel comfortable returning, we will livestream the 10:30a.m. Mass this Sunday.

United in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Fr. Jesse