

May 22, 2021

Hi everybody! We are happy to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the beginnings of the Church and the continued movement of the Holy Spirit now and until the time when Christ will return at the end of time.

Assured as we are of the continued movement of the Holy Spirit right here and right now, so do we have continued movement and progress with our Diocesan Covid protocols.

First of all, I'd like to address the new protocols about masks. Here's the new directive from the Diocesan Restoration Advisory Council effective immediately:

With the exception of our schools and Catholic Charities, anyone who is fully vaccinated is no longer required to wear a mask on Diocesan properties. The verification of vaccinations will be based solely on the honor system for those visiting our properties.

Out of consideration for the many people who remain medically vulnerable (including certain clergy and the elderly), the Council encourages the continued wearing of masks. The wearing or not wearing a mask, is a personal decision that we all respect.

The Diocese is also encouraging the continuance of social distancing.

In addition, ***"physical contact during the Sign of Peace is still not allowed,"*** and ***"Communion from the chalice is still not approved."***

Our fully vaccinated Hospitality Ministers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, however, will continue to wear their masks while performing their ministry. They may, if they so choose, remove their masks at other times during the Mass.

The most important part will be the respect and care we have for each other, whether one is wearing a mask or not. Thanks for helping us keep these ongoing transitions so positive.

Additionally, there will no longer be any guided dismissals after Mass. Since we've been doing such a great job of not leaving Mass early, I hope this consequence of COVID will continue with everyone remaining in their pews until the Ministers have exited the worship space. We do, however, ask that social distancing still be practiced among those who are of a different household.

As the Holy Spirit continues to move this day, I'd also like to inform you about the upcoming clergy assignments that will affect our parish.

Effective July 1, our parochial vicar, Fr. Gene Kinney, will begin his new ministry as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Husband of Mary. Even though Fr. Gene has been with us for only eight months, he's become an important part of our parish life. I'll have more to say about this in upcoming bulletins, but we are sad to see Fr. Gene go.

With Father Gene's departure comes the arrival of our NEW parochial vicar, Fr. Joseph Le, C.Ss.R. Fr. Joseph is a member of the Redemptorists religious community from Viet Nam. After I get a chance to get to know him, I'll share more about him. I do know that Fr. Joseph has lived in the United States since 1995. He was ordained to the priesthood seven years ago in Houston, Texas, by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, and fellow member of the Redemptorists as well. I know you'll all join me in giving Fr. Joseph a warm SEAS welcome when he begins his ministry among us!

That's a lot for this Pentecost weekend. May the fruits of the Holy Spirit guide us all as we move forward. Remember to read my bulletin letter this weekend!

Peace always,

fr jim