

May 22, 2020



*“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, as of the only-begotten Son from the Father” (John 1:14).*

Dear St. Michael Parishioners:

The words of St. John the Evangelist harken us back to the central truth of our faith in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in the flesh. When Jesus assumed our human nature in our material existence, He brought to perfection the plan of salvation promised since the time of the fall of Adam and Eve. In doing so, He would also establish the pattern of redemption in the sacramental life of the Church which continues to operate in an Incarnational fashion for the work of sanctification. The Sacrament *par excellence* is the Most Holy Eucharist which we receive during the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Over the last several weeks, many times I have heard from individuals and families that they truly miss celebrating the Mass and being together as a community gathered in prayer and fellowship here at St. Michael Parish. We have hungered for the Lord and for each other. It is with great joy that I am now able to announce to you of our return to our Sunday Mass celebrations, as well as some (but not all) weekday celebrations. I ask for your patience and cooperation during this time of transition.

First, if you don't already know, Bishop Brennan has extended the dispensation for the faithful in the Diocese of Columbus from their Sunday and Holy Day of Obligations through September 13, 2020 (see the Bishop's Letter to the Faithful dated May 13, 2020, which may be found on our parish website). This dispensation is given to encourage those who remain at high risk to stay safe by not attending public gatherings and for those who are not yet ready to bring their families to the public celebration of the Mass. Second, for those who do wish to come to Mass, please know we have been preparing carefully the necessary steps to make our parish ready for you. We have identified many areas of concern and will do our best to meet the standards that have been given us to create as safe of an environment as possible. Third, as far as parish gatherings other than Masses, no individuals or parish organizations will have access to any of the parish facilities until further notice.

Therefore, on the Solemnity of Pentecost, we will open our church doors for Sunday Masses with the first being on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm and then Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:30am, 10:30am and 12:30pm. Because of various circumstances, **weekday Masses will be offered on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30am only beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>** (There will be **no Masses on Wednesday or Saturday morning** at this time). For those who may wish to attend a later Mass time on weekdays, please check with other area parishes for their

schedule of Masses. Attached to this letter are some things for you to be mindful of when planning for your Mass attendance at St. Michael Parish.

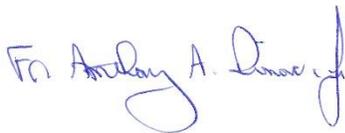
Confessions will also be offered from 2:30pm to 3:30pm on Saturdays. We will not be able to use the confessionals but will have two alternative locations for use. Instructions will be posted and/or given when you arrive.

Here are a couple of other reminders for you regarding parish communications which may be accessed through our parish website (<https://www.saintmichael-cd.org/>) :

- Flocknote – Many parishioners have already signed up for updates from our Flocknote communication platform in which I have been sending out many notices via electronic media to keep people informed;
- Facebook – Our parish Facebook page is a great way to stay connected to parish life and special announcements;
- Website Updates – There are several links on our parish website in which we are directly posting significant updates as well.

I want to thank all you who have been able to continue to support our parish financially through these difficult times. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. As we look to returning together for Masses, please know of my prayers for you and the joy that I anticipate for your return!

God bless you always,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Anthony A. Dinovo, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Fr. Anthony A. Dinovo, Jr.  
Pastor