November 25, 2020

To the Faithful of All Saints and St. Joseph

Brothers and sisters this year has definitely been trying for all of us, from the social unrests to the uncertainties of the elections. In these Coronavirus times, having to isolate ourselves from community reveals to us just how much we need and depend on one another in service and mutual affections. The one thing that is constant that gives us consolation is the comfort of the risen Lord, in His promise to be with us always until the end of the age. It is in His Spirit that gives us hope and strength as we await His second coming. As we begin this Advent Season, reflecting on how salvation has come, let us remain steadfast in prayer for the Church, for the world.

## EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON THE MASSES

As you may already be aware, last week the state and Tuolumne county health officials moved our Covid-Safety Tier System from **Moderate Orange** to **Widespread Purple**. This limits church/worship services to 'outdoors only', with modifications. Last Friday, our Bishop Myron Cotta and other bishops from California negotiated a 'waiver' to allow daily and weekend Masses but with no more than 10 people at each indoor Mass. Outdoor weekend Masses are allowed with many more people but with modifications, (masks, distancing, hand sanitizing, etc.). Remember the bishop still has in place, a dispensation for the Faithful from attending the Holy Days of Obligation. So this will be the temporary schedule while we're in the 'Purple' tier-zone:

- 1. **Daily Mass** will be as *regularly scheduled*, indoors, with no more than ten people, at All Saints, Monday through Thursday, and at St. Joseph's on Friday.
- 2. Weekend Masses (dispensed):
  - a. 4:30 pm Saturday Vigil at All Saints, indoors, for recording only. This Mass is not open to the public since we normally have close to ten people for recording.
  - b. 9:00 am Sunday at St. Joseph's, Tuolumne, indoors, but no more than ten people. In order for these ten people to attend, they must make reservations with the parish office the week before by calling 586-3161. We MAY add another Mass if more than ten people call the office to reserve for this Mass.
  - c. 2:00 pm Sunday Mass at All Saints, outdoors only; this is to accommodate a larger Mass attendance when the weather is a little warmer in the afternoon. Bring your own lightweight, aluminum, folding chairs and extra sweater, jacket or blanket. If weather is inclement, (i.e. rainy, snowy, extreme cold and icy, or more than 6 inches of snow on the ground), then Mass will be cancelled at the last minute, without notice. You may want to check the weather forecast.
- 3. Holiday and Holy Day of Obligation Masses (dispensed):
  - a. Feast of the Immaculate Conception:
    - i. 9:00 am at St. Joseph's, call for reservation
    - ii. 2:00 pm at All Saints, outdoors, pending weather, bring folding chair.
  - b. Christmas Mass:
    - i. Christmas Eve 2 pm, All Saints, outdoors, pending weather.
    - ii. Christmas Day 9 am, St. Joseph's, limit ten people, call for reservations
    - iii. Christmas Day 2 pm, All Saints, outdoors, bring folding chair.