

Sunday, May 10, 2020
5th Sunday of Easter

Dear family in the Risen Christ,

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia! Peace and grace to you and your families in this Easter season. I know what a great hardship it has been for all of you to not be able to come to Church and worship as we have all been accustomed to. Especially, the great suffering in not being able to attend and pray the Holy Mass and receive the precious gift of Holy Communion. It's hard to believe it has been almost two months since the suspension of all public Masses went into effect. Honestly, for me it has seemed even longer than that.

I write this letter to you today to try and offer all of us some hope. I am certainly ready to get back to the public celebration of Mass and the other sacraments. Bishop Persico and the Diocese this past week have issued some new directives that will begin to loosen some of the restrictions on our public worship here in the Diocese of Erie. In this letter, I would like to outline how we will implement these directives here at Our Lady of the Lake.

- Unfortunately, as of now the suspension of all public Masses remains in effect. Along with this, of course, remains the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Also, the Bishop has granted a dispensation to all the faithful of the Diocese from the Easter Duty (the obligation to receive at least once the sacrament of Confession and the sacrament of Holy Communion during the Easter Season).
- **Live-streaming of our Masses and other times of worship will still be done and can be seen on the parish Facebook page, the parish website (www.ololake.com), and the parish YouTube page (OLOL Edinboro). *The Sunday Masses will be live-streamed at 6am and the daily Masses will be live-streamed at 8am.***
- **Please continue to make your Spiritual Communions every day, even multiple times a day. So many of the Saints have attested to the great graces that come from even our Spiritual Communions.**
- **I am available to visit any of you or your family members that are sick and in need of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at any time. Please just call me (814-734-3113) or email me (radiantjoy2009@icloud.com).**
- **The Bishop has allowed regularly scheduled times of Confessions to begin again. This means that confessions will again be heard on Saturday**

afternoons from 3 – 4 pm. Of course, anytime you need to go to confession I am *always* available. You just have to call me (814-734-3113) or email me (radiantjoy2009@icloud.com) to schedule a time. *Please note, confessions for the time being will be held in the day chapel (not in the confessional) and everyone will be required to wear a mask.*

- **Finally, praise God, the Bishop has allowed us to begin public times of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament once again. *We will have a daily Holy Hour of Adoration from Monday, May 11, 2020 until we can begin the public celebration of Mass again. Everyone who comes to pray in the Church will be required to observe social distancing and will also be required to wear a mask. Here is the schedule of this Holy Hour:***
 - **Mon., Wed., and Fri.: 9 – 10am in the Church**
 - **Tue. And Thur.: 7 – 8pm in the Church.**

I know that you many of you want to return to the public celebration of Mass. Me too! This is a great, safe step in the right direction though. Please keep praying for our Bishop and those that are advising him as we move forward and prepare to get back to the full celebration of Holy Mass and the other sacraments. I have already been thinking and preparing a plan for our parish for that day when we can get back to the public celebration of Mass. It will definitely look very different and require all of us to be flexible and patient. More details will be given on this plan in the coming days and weeks.

In the meantime, please know how much I love and miss you all. Please know how grateful I am to all of you for your continued prayers and support for me in the many notes, calls, texts, and emails that you have sent to me. Also, thank you so much to all of you for your continued financial generosity to our parish during this time. Please continue to be generous both spiritually and financially so that we can have a vibrant, healthy parish to come back to when this Pandemic is over.

You are all in my daily prayers as I pray the Holy Mass and pray my Holy Hour. I am so proud of all of you for your faith, hope, and perseverance through this unprecedented and challenging time.

Yours always in the Risen Jesus,

Fr. Daniel Hoffman
Pastor