

May 23, 2020

Please be advised that I am continuing to communicate with recognized and professional public health officials in our community and we all believe to the best of our ability and with an absolute conviction that any decisions about resuming Sunday Masses has to consider the common good as the priority.

At this time there is very little firm data about this virus other than it is still active and it is still contaminating people, so I am not rushing to any decisions. We will wait and see how the infection and death numbers look as we move into the incubation period after what we believe is a premature if not reckless rush to get back to normal.

While as always, everyone is welcome in our church, registered parish members will receive a letter from me via the post office that will ask you if you would like to attend a Sunday Mass under all of the conditions that the diocese responsibly has put in place to conform to state requirements.

People who are not registered parish members can certainly participate in this next step by calling our parish office, 219.865.8956, and leave your name, telephone number or email address and indicate that you do want to attend Mass.

That is just a first step it does not mean a resumption of Sunday Masses.

The fact that the ability to “worship” has become the issue that it has is a sad commentary on what religion has become in American life.

I cannot speak to other religions, but any mature normal healthy understanding of Catholicism would not turn Sunday Mass into a political or ideological battlefield. Normal Catholics would know that our faith assumes a presence of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, completely independent of any building or ritual.

Many believe that we have Guardian Angels which is an application of that deeper conviction that the Trinity is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

We as a Church, have lost our way, I am afraid, if we turn Sunday Mass into a referendum on our patriotism or our understanding of the Constitution.

People who love to quote Jesus ought to consider his teaching when he was speaking to the woman of Samaria at that well at noon that day long ago:

Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews.

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;* and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.

God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." John Chapter 4, verses 21-24