

It was so nice to see so many of you again this past weekend as we celebrated our second week together since the churches have been reopened. The real downside of this reopening is that we can only seat so many people at each Mass, namely, 142, which reflects the 25% we are permitted to have at each Mass. The only way we are able to assure you that you have a seat is to reserve whatever number you need. You can go to the parish website-shrineofpadrepio.com, or to My Parish app, or Facebook and reserve your seats. The second step of the reservation process is to print your ticket(s). You are to bring those tickets with you and

those at the entrance doors will verify your reservation. The deadline for reservations is Thursday evening at 10:00 pm. This give us time on Friday to place your name on the seat(s) you will be occupying. Please note we are not able to guarantee which section of the worship space you will be seated, but the placement is done in keeping with the social distancing required at this time, which is 6 feet beside or behind you.

If you do not have a computer or the use of a cell phone, you can call the parish office and we will help you with your reservation. If you show up without a reservation, we will not turn you

away unless the seating capacity have been reached. Then, we have no choice but to recommend that you come to another Mass. The greeters will have a listing of all masses and will help you find a mass that can accommodate you.

I want to encourage our young families, young adults and teens to attend Mass. I have not seen very good representation from these groups. The dispensation from the Sunday obligation is meant for those who are dealing with vulnerable health issues. It has been recommended that those over 65 not attend Mass, but if you are healthy there is nothing to stop you from coming to Mass. We are 'squeaky clean' and have

taken every measure to safeguard all those attending Mass. But it is not the same without you! To see you once again is a prayer answered for me! It has been so strange saying Mass to a cell phone, with only two people in attendance.

We will continue to live stream two of our weekend Masses, namely, the 11:30 am and the 2:00 pm Spanish Mass. Our daily Masses will be live streamed at 9:00 am. We still have plenty of empty seats at the 9:00 am Mass. So, if you were accustomed to attending the daily Mass. Come on down!

I want to thank those who have elected to give on line and donate

on our new electronic giving program, Give Central. We want to move from our old program, eprocessing to Give Central, as it is more "user friendly" than eprocessing. If you have some issues registering, please call the parish office and we will assist you in completing the form. In addition, I want to thank those who have started giving again since we are able to come to Mass.

We have trimmed our operating budget by 25% as the Archdiocese has instructed us to do. That being the case, we are relying on you to give as you are capable, to help us meet our ordinary operating expenses. I

believe with your financial help we can feel most confident that we will be able to live within the framework of this new budget for the year 2020-2021, which begins on July 1, 2020.

In case you are wondering about a parish bulletin which we have not printed since the pandemic caused us to close our churches, we will not be publishing one for the time being. I will continue to give updates via website, Facebook and MyParish App. I hope you will listen to them as this is the only real method of communication I will have with you for a while.

Just a reminded about the sacrament of Confirmation. We

have scheduled two dates, namely July 31 at 7:00 pm, and August 1 at 10:00 am. Due to the percentage seating, we had to split the class into two groups. We can only seat 142 total at each celebration. Since this is the case we will live stream the ceremonies so those who cannot attend can watch this conferral of the sacrament of Confirmation. I know this is going to cause a great inconvenience, but we have to respect the guidelines for seating. You will be receiving information from the CEP office about the Mass you will be attending. Please note: the only participants at the Mass will be the candidates, sponsors and

parents. There is no room for other family members. So, please, do not show up and expect to be seated as there is only enough seating for the above mentioned group.

With the summer months upon us, we will not be having meetings in the parish facilities until further notice. We will go back to regular office hours on July 1. Thus, our full staff will be working from 8am until 4pm, Monday thru Friday.

We are presently reviewing our CEP program, and are reviewing optional programming that can be done in the home rather than on site. We are looking at having this programming from September thru November. But this is not

determined at this time, but just a 'heads-up' as to what we might have to do for the first semester. This is not the most ideal way, but this might be the best avenue to take. So, we will keep you abreast as to what decision will be made.