



June 7, 2020

### Reopening St. Peter

Many of you have been anxious for our church to reopen, and for this, I am very grateful. A good example, last week, there was a young mother kneeling on the cement in front of the church doors praying. I felt I needed to invite her inside. When I spoke with her and offered her this opportunity, she was so surprised and shocked. She asked, "Can I really go inside?" When she entered, she started crying very much. I know many others feel the same way. I realize that I am the only one to have the honor to be in the church every day to say Mass, my Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet and my other prayers. It is very hard to fathom that we could have ever experienced such a time in our lives where we would be forbidden to come to church.

So, as we are approaching the three-month mark of this lock-down period during the pandemic, please be patient. It was a difficult decision to make whether to open the church for 10 people when we have 3,000 parishioners. Deacon Fred has informed me that this week, he sent in the necessary paperwork for St. Peter to be certified and open again. Hopefully next Monday, June 15, we will be prepared for 100 attendees for morning Mass at 8:00 am.

I would like to thank all of you who have offered your time and have signed up to help us re-open the church. Without you, this would be impossible. Many parishes near us have gone through great lengths to open their churches for only 10 people while not yet for Masses, but only for private prayer and confession. I have also heard from our parishioners that other parishes, in order to be able to go for confession inside the church, people needed to sign up beforehand and make a reservation. This is why I decided the easiest way to have the sacrament of reconciliation again would be to hold it outside without a registration, thus, maintaining anonymity. Many people did decide to take advantage of this opportunity during the week, and especially on Saturday morning and afternoon. For this reason, I would like to offer you the chance once again this week:

Thursday

8:00 to 10:00 am / 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Saturday

8:00 to 10:00 am / 3:00 to 5:00 pm



We must remember that God is merciful and gracious. When Moses went up the mountain as the Lord had commanded him, God powerfully described himself, “The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.” Jesus shows us the depths of this life of God. He came not to condemn the world but to save it.

As people in relationship with God, we often fail. We walk away from God’s ways, fall into sinfulness, and then, with the Lord’s grace, come to our senses and return. God’s words to Moses and the very life of Jesus show us that when we do so, we can still rely on God’s mercy and kindness, because love is God’s very nature.

Knowing that God loves us is reassuring and may help us place our faith and trust in the Lord, but something more naturally follows – as followers of Jesus, we are called to become more like him. When others look at us, they should be able to say that we are “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.” This gets at the heart of what it means to be a Christian.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you who sent me good wishes, cards and gifts for my 20th anniversary. I am very grateful. And thank you also for your continued generosity supporting our church.

Have a blessed week and I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Fr. Slawek*

