

July 29, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Bede the Venerable Parish,

Since March 17, 2020 our Catholic parish ministry has been deeply disrupted by the CoViD-19 Pandemic, declared by the Federal Government of the United States of America. Its impacts have reached every corner of our nation and its territories. We immediately were asked to end the public celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and we dutifully complied and immediately went into emergency mode and began televising the Mass via the use of Social Media, specifically, FACEBOOK platform. With no time to prepare, we did the best we could and adapted to the situation as the length of restrictions began to extend beyond weeks into months. By May 5, 2020 we were given permission to return to the public celebration of Mass in a very limited capacity and also began distributing communion from in front of the Church. Shortly thereafter, on May 9-10, 2020 we celebrated Mass with social distancing and a maximum of 50% in the Church on Sundays. We have maintained this posture ever since. I have publicized the numbers in attendance at Mass regularly in the Bulletin.

As we continue to adapt to the present circumstances of an ever present threat of the COVID-19 Virus and the imposing restrictions of our local and state and federal governments, I would like to update you on what I am doing to deal with the current state of affairs. I will do so in bullet point form. Thank you for your faithful support of your parish and striving to maintain faith in these trying and unprecedented circumstances.

1. The Holy Sacrifice is being celebrated every day and on Sundays in the Church. Social distance seating is being required and masks are required in Church.

2. The distribution of Holy Communion continues to be offered on Sunday afternoon between 4:00pm and 4:30pm inside the Church.

3. Confessions are being heard at all the regular times as they were before the Pandemic restrictions began.

4. The Daily 6:30am Mass is being live streamed via our FACEBOOK platform as well as on our stbede.org WEBPAGE

5. The Sunday 10:00am Mass and 12:30pm Spanish Mass is being live streamed via our FACEBOOK platform as well as on our stbede.org WEBPAGE

6. We have begun to pray the Rosary everyday via our FACEBOOK platform at 3pm since March 17

7. The Office remains open with its regular hours (8:00am to 4:30pm); in addition, the Gift Shop can also be visited during these hours

8. The FOOD BANK remains open for people in need of assistance

9. The youth group will begin meeting in August with social distancing and masks required

10. School will reopen August 10, 2020

These are the things we are doing to address the COVID-19 virus:

1. We will transition to online classes for CCD and RCIA programs

2. We are in the process of purchasing and installing a new permanent and professional Camera system to televise the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

3. We are in the process of refitting and renovating the Daycare building into a new Youth Center

4. We are inviting parishioners to become Volunteers to carry out our FOOD BANK ministry in a more regular manner

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to invite any one receiving this letter who has not been to confession or communion ever since the beginning of this Pandemic or before and still remains quarantined due to health concerns, anxiety or other reasons, to call the office and make arrangements for either Fr. Plessala or Fr. Valladares (me) to come by and minister to your needs. We await your call.

On a personal level, this has been very difficult and I am trying to do what is necessary and essential to maintain our faith strong and to depend on God more, as we always should. Thank you for your tithing support! Because of your generosity even in the midst of these trying times, we remain solvent. May God bless each and every one of you and Our Blessed Mother assist you to receive the graces you need are most in need of in order to persevere in faith.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Alex Valladares
Pastor