



# THE MARION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Dear Parishioners

Easter greetings and I pray, despite the challenges we face, the Risen Christ has given you new life....and the grace to, like his apostles, venture into this strange and different world. Many of you have told me how much you miss the Mass and please know it's also extremely difficult for me. You have been sheltering in place with your family and some have said the blessing of all this has been the extended time given to be together and do things as a family that didn't seem possible when life was "normal." For me personally, since priests don't marry, you are my family, and I am most thankful for so many of you who have allowed me to be part of your family. Masses each Sunday, like your family meals at home, are what give me life and energy to do the things I do day in and day out. I truly wish it would be possible to go back to having masses like we did at Christmas and the Sundays that followed. I really miss seeing you, being with you, and I'm not all that thrilled about being a "virtual" priest. However, I also realized that was better than no interaction or communication at all. We had a couple hiccups, but we were able to make a pretty good temporary set up. Now, because of your generosity, we are planning to install permanent cameras at St John and Precious Blood.

Public masses will resume in the Marion Catholic Community with the weekday Mass, Monday, June 1st. Please keep in mind that this will be a work in progress and we ask for **a lot of patience!** It will not be back to business as usual and we are trying to meet the needs for sacraments in a way that helps everyone grow in their relationship with God and still keeps everyone safe. Also, listed are the guidelines we have developed for resuming Masses.

The mass schedule is as follows:

- Monday at 7:30am—St. Sebastian
- Tuesday at 7:00pm—St. John
- Wednesday at 7:30am—St. Rose
- Thursday at 7:00pm—Precious Blood
- Friday at 7:30am—Nativity BVM
- Saturday at 5:00pm—St. John
- Sunday at 9:00am—Precious Blood
- Sunday at 10:30am—St. John

Another challenge is having sufficient Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers to help us welcome people in a safe and orderly way. If you are willing to help with ministers, please contact the parish office by calling 419-925-4775 or e-mail [marioncathcom@gmail.com](mailto:marioncathcom@gmail.com). Churches, like offices for medical services and hospitals, try to maintain the highest standards. In other parts of the country, some churches have already resumed public masses. Their experience has been a small number have chosen to attend, usually about 25% of what was previously their normal attendance. Many people still do not feel safe of other places, especially those who are most vulnerable for any reason. **For these reasons, and others, please remember the Archbishop has also extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday mass for the foreseeable future.**

Personally, I am worried that moving forward while Mercer County has seen a significant increase in cases, will lead to unnecessary sickness and death in our communities. But, my prayer is that the measures we are taking will prevent that. In last Sunday's gospel Jesus promised: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you!" So with the gift and the grace of his Holy Spirit we ask him to help us!

God Bless,

Fr. Eugene H. Schnipke, C.P.P.S.