



Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, and this week we celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May 25. Memorial Day is considered the unofficial beginning of Summer. More importantly, we remember and honor those who died in the service of our country. And likewise, we remember all of our deceased loved ones who have gone before us. "Remembering" is a very powerful and sacred activity.

I have been considering this quite a bit lately as I celebrate Mass alone at the altar and remember all of you and commend you in prayer to the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. **Each Mass includes an explicit "remembrance" of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus our Savior.** The Eucharist is actually called the "Memorial" of his death and resurrection. After we "remember" the Lord's death and victory over death, we then ask God the Father to "remember" the Church throughout the world and to "remember" our deceased brothers and sisters. Certainly, He could never forget them! And so, our Memorial Day remembrances are also sacred and powerful.

While we are calling to mind so many who have passed from this world, **let us also remember those who have died from COVID-19 and also those of our parish and others who died during this time who were unable to receive full funeral honors because of the restrictions on Mass gatherings.** May we not forget any of these but remember them with tenderness and affection.

On Tuesday of this week, we will resume the celebration of daily Masses in public at St. Andrew Church, at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. This will give us a chance to celebrate Mass, observing all of the precautions that must be followed, and see how it goes – I hope smoothly. I hope this will help us get all the "bugs" out and get comfortable with the different way of celebrating Mass before the weekend comes, which will be the true test! I am a little nervous about how the weekend will go. **I hope that we do not have too many people trying to attend any of the Masses, as the number allowed in the church is strictly limited.** And I am hoping that all who do attend **obey all the rules of social distancing, hand sanitizing, and wearing the necessary face covering or mask** for the protection of themselves and others from the virus. I certainly don't want to encounter any unpleasantness, resistance, or disregard for these rules. **I firmly believe that these measures are NOT burdensome and are the very least we can do to help prevent the spread of the virus when we come together for Mass.** It is our moral responsibility to do this.

By the way, the priests are still available to hear confessions by appointment. We are not yet ready to begin regular confessions on Saturdays, but we will communicate our plans to do this in the near future as we are able.

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney