

September 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

**I want to congratulate our First Communicants who have received or will soon receive their First Holy Communion.** We are having three separate First Communion Masses on September 12, 19, and 26. Our First Communion Mass, which would have taken place last May, was one of the casualties of the Coronavirus pandemic and the “shutdown” period when we weren't having any public masses. Now that we are finally celebrating First Communion, we still have to practice social distancing and limit the number of people attending, so we must divide into three groups rather than have one big First Communion Mass.

**I remarked to the First Communicants last Saturday that they have been waiting a very long time to receive the Bread of Life, and so they must be very hungry!** The longer we must wait before we can eat, the hungrier we become. I asked the children to remember their First Holy Communion all their lives and remember how long they had to wait for it. And I expressed my hope that they would always hunger for the Bread of Life!

I realize that many of you have also been waiting a long time to receive Holy Communion. You may be sheltering at home for your own safety and wishing not to take any chances with the Coronavirus which is still a threat. Although you are being prudent in staying away from gatherings and crowds, including at church, you are still waiting and getting hungrier and hungrier. Perhaps you may watch a broadcast or live stream Mass, but even this only makes you realize that there is no substitute for being present at Mass and partaking of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. **When the pandemic passes and we can all gather for Mass together and partake of the Lord's Body and Blood, I hope that you will never forget these days and always hunger for the Bread of Life!**

Your Pastor,  
Msgr. Stephan Moloney