



**SAINT ANDREW**  
PARISH

March 12, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

One year ago, the coronavirus pandemic was beginning to spread in Ohio. A year ago, our church doors were closed, the Sunday obligation was dispensed, and stay-at-home orders were issued. A year ago, schools were closed, students began learning remotely, many of us began working from home. A year ago, I first learned what "Zoom" was and a year later, I am on "Zoom" meetings almost every day.

But it is now an entire year later, and although the pandemic isn't over yet, we sense the nearness of a return to normalcy. More and more people are vaccinated each day. More and more people are returning to Sunday Mass. In fact, the last few weeks our church was looking pretty full as most of the available pews were occupied. We are planning for our Holy Week and Easter masses and liturgies. Last year, our church was closed and locked on Easter. This week, St. Andrew School students will once again be coming to Mass "in person" during the school day. My point is that, although we are not yet back to normal, we are much closer to normal than we were one year ago. A parishioner remarked to me after a recent Sunday Mass that seeing the pews so filled with people made it seem "almost like normal." That's how I felt too, and it is a very hopeful feeling. Back on Ash Wednesday, in my homily, I asked that we see the ashes we received as a sign of hope this year and expect that new life will "rise from the ashes." I ask you to keep that vision of hope, both for your renewed spiritual life and for the post-pandemic renewal of our parish life here at St. Andrew Parish. In the meantime, we will keep wearing our masks and sanitizing our hands, and keeping our distance, but we will do so joyfully because we have hope for the future.

I want to thank all those who participated in the survey about Easter Mass attendance. Your input will help us greatly in our planning. Also, thanks to all who have already completed the "Disciple Maker Index" survey, which is an important part of the "Real Presence-Real Future" initiative of the Diocese of Columbus. **If you have not completed this survey yet, please do so by March 21.**

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, this "Laetare Sunday," may God bless you all and make your spirit "rejoice"!

Your Pastor,  
Msgr. Stephan Moloney