



15089 Newburgh Rd.  
Livonia, Michigan 48154  
(734) 464-1222 fax (734) 464-7582  
parishoffice@stedith.org  
[www.stedith.org](http://www.stedith.org)

September, 2020

Dear St. Edith Parish Family:

We have learned a lot about Covid-19 since we started having public Masses back in May. We know more today about how the virus is spread and how to prevent the spread. Wearing a face mask over our nose and mouth, social distancing and hand hygiene are very effective in stopping the spread of the virus. Dr. Redfield of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has stated that wearing a mask may be more effective in stopping the spread of the virus than a vaccine. We have also had public Masses for several months and that has gone very well. I think we have a better handle on how to keep everyone safe. People are being considerate of one another by wearing masks and social distancing. This is an act of love and kindness toward one another.

We cannot stop living during this pandemic. This is the time that we have. We are exploring ways that we can feel more normal during these times. Weekend Mass attendance is currently about 100 people per Mass. We can safely accommodate up to 200 people per Mass, so we are going to dispense with the requirement that you sign up online before coming to Mass at this time. When we first started public Masses, I strongly suggested that you not attend the public Masses if you were part of the vulnerable population. Some of you told me that you felt unwelcome. That was not my intent. I was just trying to keep everyone safe, and I was not sure we could do that back in May. We now know that age is not as much of a factor as underlying medical conditions. While we are more likely to have underlying medical conditions when we are 65 years of age or older, that is not true for everyone. We now know how to keep people safe, wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth, social distancing and good hand hygiene. Everyone who wants to come to Mass is more than welcome. People who feel more comfortable watching the recorded Mass at home are welcome to do that as well. No judgment.

Some of you have liked the outside Masses and some of you would prefer to be inside. I think the outside Masses are about coming to an end because of the fall weather. All Saturday 5:00 Masses will be inside because we are going to be streaming that Mass. It will soon be too cold to have the 8:30 Mass on Sunday outside. We will be able to have the 11:00 Mass outside, weather permitting, for a little longer. We will do our best to make sure everyone is safe and comfortable. We are going to make a few small changes at the Masses to make things seem more normal. I will begin processing in and out at the inside Masses, and when an altar server is available, they will carry the processional cross. We also want to social distance and acknowledge one another during the sign of peace.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> we will begin to have a Tuesday morning Mass at 9:00 am followed by Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration ending with Benediction at 6:30pm by Deacon Bob Delbeke. This will be held in the Church. The Gospel of Life Group will be moving inside to pray the Rosary at 6:30 on Wednesdays. Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study will be starting with groups of 10 or less. Of course, masks and social distancing will be required. You

can now make a contribution for Mass intentions through On Line Giving. Call the Parish Office and let them know the intention and the Mass you would like and you can make your contribution online.

Our school has now been open onsite, full days, for four weeks and everything is going well. I want to thank the staff and faculty at the school for making this happen. Please keep them and our school children in your prayers so that this can continue. It is really important for our children to be back in school. We are not sponsoring CYO fall sports, but we are considering sponsoring the winter sports if things go well and we can keep everyone safe.

One of the things I really miss, and I know many of you do as well, is the community events we used to have at St. Edith. I used to spend hours interacting with all of you before and after Masses on the weekends and I really miss that. I am looking forward to the day when we can start doing these things again. This is only temporary. That day will come. At this time we still have the limitation of 10 people or less inside with the exception of worship and the school.

I want to thank all of you for your financial support. We are continuing to meet our budget, so that is very good news and a great demonstration of your support of St. Edith Parish. I want to thank everyone who has supported me during this difficult time. I have had to make some difficult decisions to keep people safe during this pandemic. I thank you for your affirmation. If you have any suggestions of things you would like to see happen at St. Edith, please let me know or contact one of the Parish Pastoral Council Members. Their contact information is in the bulletin and on the website.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Jim  
Pastor