

September 6, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

While the calendar New Year begins on January 1st, the new parish year always begins in September, usually after Labor Day. And so, we are now beginning a New Parish Year at St. James.

In the next several weeks we will be celebrating the sacraments with the adults and children who were originally scheduled to receive them last spring.

In keeping with the requirement to observe social distancing and to clean and disinfect the church before and after every liturgical celebration each sacrament will be celebrated in smaller groups. Our First Holy Communion Masses will take place each Saturday at 11:30 AM, starting September 12th through October 10th. The adults who were preparing for the celebration of Confirmation will have the opportunity to receive this Sacrament on Sunday, September 20th, at the Noon Mass.

In October, the teens who were scheduled to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation last spring will have that opportunity to do so as well. Bishop Barres has requested that each pastor request delegation to celebrate Confirmation in each of our own parishes with these youngsters.

Thankfully, our deacons have been celebrating the baptisms of the infants whose baptisms were also postponed due to the pandemic.

Again, we will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of St. James Parish on October 10, 2021, which falls on a Sunday. In preparation for that significant anniversary we are planning a year-long series of special events to mark this significant anniversary. I will be meeting with the priests, deacons and other staff members to coordinate these events.

Our monthly Holy Hour will begin on Monday, October 5th, at 7:30PM. Each month one of the priests, deacons and at times a parishioner will be invited to offer some reflections about our shared life at St. James.

Plans are also in process to reopen our Faith Formation Program in mid-October. The present plans include some in-class sessions, following an A & B schedule, in addition to virtual learning for others.

While it is our hope and prayer that a second wave of the virus will be averted, we are presently making additional plans to be prepared just in case for the safety of everyone.

Please know that I am delighted to be back. I am truly looking forward to a great year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.