



Dear Friends,

We are approaching the next stage of re-opening our parish. By the end of August, we should be able to have public Mass at our parish church in La Grange Park, St. Louise de Marillac (SLM). Up until now the only site where we had permission to hold Mass was at our parish church in Brookfield, St. Barbara. With the opening of northern site, we will have a change in the schedule.

I realize changing things doesn't come easy to some people. However, with the opening of the SLM site more of our people can attend Mass on a weekend. Currently, we can only accommodate 80 people at St. Barbara for each Mass. That means we can accommodate 160 people on any weekend. With the opening of SLM, which can hold 100 per Mass, we shall be able accommodate 360 people each weekend.

The change that's coming is not in the *TIME* of the Mass but in the LOCATION. Once we receive permission to hold Masses at SLM, the Saturday evening Mass at 5 PM will be held at St. Louise just like before. This Mass will be streamed live and be taped for those who wish to continue attending Mass at home. The 9:30 AM Mass will still be held at St. Barbara.

Right now, I have to consider the reality that there are only 2 priests to cover all the services at Holy Guardian Angels. Fr. David has taken vacation time which leaves Fr. Mike and myself. Fr. Mike has to cover the Spanish Mass each Sunday leaving the other two Masses to split between us. We also have two 1st Communions to cover this Saturday as well as confessions and a Memorial Mass. In addition to having priests celebrate the Masses we must also consider the people on the Clean-up Team who have to disinfect the churches after each Mass, sacrament or service.

I am planning to take a vacation in October which will leave Fr. Mike and Fr. David to cover for me. As many of you know, Fr. Mike takes off after Christmas for about 6 weeks. That means Fr. David and I will cover all Masses, sacraments and services at the beginning of the year.

I hope to add to the Mass schedule. Once Religious Ed. begins we will add a 9:30 Mass at St. Louise. We are thinking at this time of having a Mass at 7:30 AM at St. Barbara and, perhaps, another English Mass at 10 AM at St. Barbara. That way there will be 2 Masses at each site besides the Spanish Mass at 12:30 pm. These changes are ideas still in process.

Speaking of 1st Communions, I would like to congratulate the kids who made their 1st Communion last Saturday and their parents. May their Guardian Angels watch over them. Usually, we celebrate 1st Communion in May, but the coronavirus took that away from us.

The pandemic also took away the celebration of Confirmation in the spring. We will be celebrating that sacrament on September 18th and 19th and again on October 2nd and 3rd. Because of the restriction on the number of people allowed in the church at any given time, we've had to schedule 4 Confirmations. The bishops were unable to celebrate this sacrament in the early part of this year because of the virus. Since parishes are reopening at different times, the bishops were unable to schedule Confirmations, so the Archbishop, Cardinal Cupich, delegated the pastor of each parish to Confirm their children.

Please pray for our young people who have, or are about to have, their first encounter with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Pray, too, for those about to be Confirmed in the faith that the Spirit may hold them close and guide them in life. Pray also for me. I have never presided at a Confirmation and I want to make this a wonderful experience for our young people.

Another change coming involves the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). The current PPC is mostly made up of Brookfield parishioners plus two from La Grange Park. This PPC has been guided by the Constitution and By-Laws made for the old parish. Holy Guardian Angels has different needs from our previous parishes. New time, new parish, new voices call for us to develop a new PPC.

Further information about the new PPC will be the topic of my next video and in my next letter.

May God hold you all in his hands and may our Guardian Angels continue to watch over us.

*Fr. Denis*