

**Holy Spirit Parish**  
**Pastoral Letter**  
**May 2021**

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, the corona virus, that has touched our world over a year ago, made its presence known in our parish. Along with our dedicated Pandemic Committee, stringent guidelines adhering to safe public practices, quick response from Public Health, we were able to submit our 'sign up' sheets for contact tracing to prevent any further possible exposure.

No one 'purposely wants to infect others' with this unknown and highly contagious disease. However, the warnings that have been offered by our health/government personnel has shown us first-hand how vulnerable we truly are and that no one is exempt from covid 19. I am very proud of the exceptional work that our Pandemic Committee and the extra work placed on our secretary Bernice has done thus far. This past experience shows us that what we are doing actually works. And I want to thank all of you, the parishioners of Holy Spirit, who cooperated by following the safety procedures that were put in place. As well, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who called, text, emailed, sent cards and offered words of encouragement from our parish, the greater diocese and those from other faith traditions. A special "Thank You" to Pastor Rob Nylin of Rivercross for your words of encouragement, the first to experience a 'positive case' in their faith community. To Cory and Jennifer Ryan at The Medicine Shoppe, who dropped of medications at my home. As well as the number of clergy in the Grand Bay-Westfield area who offered assistance and prayerful support. Truly, we are blessed to live in such a close community.

As well, I want to thank many of my brother priests who called, sent text messages and emails, offering prayer and help. A special 'thank you' to Fr. Tom Fowler and Monsignor Brian Henneberry of Holy Redeemer Parish for all that you did for us... your goodness will never be forgotten! I want to thank you, the parishioners for

your words of encouragement, groceries and again your prayer, love and compassion.

For most of us, this possible exposure and isolation has been a frightening experience. Some have already informed me that they will not be returning until there is more control over this disease. I support your decision either way. For those who continue to worship with us, I implore you to continue to follow all safety guidelines, including sanitizing your hands especially prior to the reception of Communion! As well, I encourage you to listen to your conscience... your heart for that is where God speaks. If you are not comfortable in attending Mass, watch it on television or check out the numerous masses offered on websites (For two weeks, I prayed with a community from Manhattan New York: St. Francis of Assisi who offers uplifting music and excellent homilies. It airs Sunday 12 noon).

In the next four weeks, we have been assured that more vaccines will be coming our way. When we are fully inoculated, and hopefully obtain 'herd immunity' life will become safer. In the meantime, we need to realize that this disease is real. And yet, we are 'Resurrection People,' who always live in hope. One of the beautiful cards someone had sent me concluded with the heartfelt verse "every dark cloud has a silver lining." I believe that our 'silver lining' is that these past two weeks have brought us all closer together, allowing us to put our faith into action. Holy Spirit people are faith-filled and resilient people. Let us continue to practice all safety procedures, looking out for one another and continue to hold each other up in prayer!

God Bless,

Fr. David