

November 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

After long and prayerful consultation with our bishop, other pastors, our parish's Jesuits, our pastoral staff, and our Pastoral Council, St. Ignatius Parish will follow Sacramento County guidelines and cease offering public masses until we have a clearance from the county's health officials. Our last live public mass was celebrated this morning, Friday, November 13 at 8 am.

For the safety of all in this time of rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases we have decided to comply with county public health regulations. The variability of late fall and early winter weather makes returning to outdoor celebrations impossible.

This is a painful decision, one that not all will agree with. The celebration of the Eucharist is the center and summit of our life as a worshipping community, and experiencing it virtually is to experience it at a painful remove from the full reality of union and communion it signifies. Nevertheless, we have prayerfully discerned together that continuing to gather in significant numbers presents a real and present danger to our community members, particularly to our elders and those with compromised health situations. The wider danger to our extended families and neighbors is an unacceptable risk for us to support at this moment.

We have received extraordinary permission from Bishop Soto to make Holy Communion available to the faithful after our live-streamed masses. To accommodate the Bishop's request that distribution be linked to live-streamed masses, we will plan to stream our 7:30 am and 11:30 am masses each Sunday, and our daily 8 am mass Monday through Saturday. All other mass times are suspended. If you elect to come to receive Holy Communion, a minister will be available in front of the Parish Center building on Sundays from 8:30 to 10 am and from 12:30 to 2 pm and on weekdays: from 8:30 to 10 am. The minister will bring Holy Communion to you in your car as you pull up. Parents of our students will recognize this as the normal school drop off pattern. This is a new system, so we may need to adapt it as time goes on. Thank you for your patience as we work out the bugs. We ask you to sanitize your hands in your cars before receiving.

We invite you to participate some upcoming special events, and to stay connected on our website and Facebook pages in upcoming weeks. We will do our best to keep you connected to our parish life, and to nourish your faith in these hard times.

Please note that this afternoon's (Nov 13) Mass of Remembrance will be streamed at 5:30 pm, but due to logistical issues, Holy Communion will not be distributed after this celebration. Communion distribution will begin on Saturday, Nov. 14 after the 8 am mass. We will be offering a special streamed Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 10 am, followed by Holy Communion.

We want to continue to be good and careful citizens who look to the common good of our larger community. I want to encourage all to exercise special caution and attention to the protocols that we have been asked to follow, especially in the holiday season that is almost upon us. In addition to our prayers, our self-discipline and sacrifice will help to save lives.

Let's continue to pray for one another, for all the sick, and for our health care workers. And in this month of the Holy Souls, let's continue to commend our beloved dead to God's tender mercy. Thank you for your patience, your faith, and your hope.



Fr. Tom Lucas S.J.
Pastor

P.S. Please be aware that several times in recent weeks phishing emails have gone out with my name and the names of other parish staff members on @gmail.com accounts. All official emails from me or the parish are only sent out from @stignatiussac.org or @ondemandmail.com accounts, never from gmail.com. So ignore any suspicious activity, requests for help or information etc... Unfortunately, there's nothing we can do to prevent this all-too-common practice.



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