

My dear parishioners,

May 4, 2020

I hope this letter reaches you before the weekend of May 9-10 so that you can be a part of the mass we hope to celebrate on Sunday, May 10. The mass will be celebrated on the baseball field at Opelousas Catholic at 10:00am on Mother's Day. Parking will be behind the school which is considered the student parking lot. Please enter from Broussard Lane by our cemetery.

First and foremost, please practice social distancing. I know that everyone wants to visit but at this time we must follow the directives as best as we can. When entering the field please remain six feet apart. You are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask or some type of facial covering. Additional masks will be available. Please do this for the safety of others.

Please bring your own seating. Seating in the stands will not be allowed. Families can sit as a group, but the six-foot directive is to be respected between families and individuals. Ushers will be on hand to provide directions, and we ask for your cooperation.

Baskets will be provided at the entrance/exit for offerings. We will not be passing the offertory baskets.

For the distribution and reception of Holy Communion, you are asked to please stand, remain at your place and receive in the hand. If you choose to remain in your vehicle, wait until the parking lot is cleared, then drive up to the entrance to the ball field and communion will be brought to you.

After reception of communion you are asked to return to your vehicle and exit the parking lot. There is to be no congregating in the field or the parking lot. We need to follow this directive for the safety of others.

The obligation to attend mass is still dispensed. So, if you would prefer to remain home for whatever reason, please know this incurs no sin. Your safety is still of utmost importance.

When we are able to return to the church building to celebrate mass together, there will be a time of transition that will call for your patience and cooperation as well. As we draw ever closer to that time, I will try to communicate all things to you as best as we can.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to offer good wishes and blessings to all our moms in our community. Your vocation as mother is invaluable to the well being and faith development of your children. Your acceptance of this vocation is a true blessing to all God's children.

We turn to our Blessed Mother, knowing that she continues to watch over us and shower us with her protection and love. May Mary, the mother of God and our mother, share with you the graces that flow from her Immaculate Heart. In this month of May, we remember her life-giving 'yes' that transformed the face of the earth. We remember the transforming fidelity that she presented to Jesus, her beloved son. She offered herself for the sake of the world and out of an undying love for the God who loves her and us completely.

Know that my prayers are with all of you. God will surely bless us all with His boundless love and mercy.

Russel J. Harrinton