



St. Michael's Church

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June 16, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

I hope that I am not boring you with my letters but as we continue to prepare for the reopening of St. Michael's I think it is very important that I do my best to keep you informed. I believe that this is especially important today because when you return to church you will not be returning to many of the traditions and practices that you have grown accustomed to over the years. The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced us to change many of our practices in an effort to protect everyone.

When I think about the changes, many of which I never could have imagined, I am reminded of a quote that I read about returning to mass from a bishop in Florida that reads:

"I emphasizes that ALL Catholics are dispensed from the Obligation to Attend Mass until further notification. This is meant to ensure the well-being and safety of ALL, not only the elderly and those who are at risk for illness, but anyone of any age who is making a prudent decision about their own wellbeing, as well as others. Simply stated, as we begin and continue the process of re-opening, no one is obliged or should feel obligated to come to church. This is an individual and free decision and one may have an overriding serious obligation not to come to church."

Think about that quote as you pray and reflect on your decision regarding when you will return to mass at St. Michael's or anywhere where you feel welcomed and fed.

Enclosed with this letter is a two sided document titled

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
RETURNING TO CHURCH INFO SHEET**

That will explain some of the things that will be different when you return to mass at St. Michael's. I ask that you read it prior to arriving for mass and remember all of these changes are being made with the health and safety of everyone as our first priority.

May the Peace of Christ be with you always,

Deacon Andrew "Andy" Grebe
Interim Parish Administrator