

## ST. PHILOMENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 27, 2020

My dear friends,

This has been an odd week, but not one without rewards. Yes, the governor extended the 'shelter-in-place' order until the end of May. I am disappointed, but I am committed to enduring inconvenience until the day when we can safely resume "business as usual". I cannot bear the thought of crying out "all clear!", only to have the virus spring back with a vengeance.

People have been asking what it will look like once we are able to resume services. At this point, I just don't know. My hunch is that it will look something like what we did early on in the contagion. That is, we will start with having the church open for a number of hours each day for Eucharistic adoration, as long as 'social distancing' norms are observed. When public masses will begin is a more complex matter, and I will await the instructions of the archdiocese for that.

One of my favorite devotions, when we're not on lockdown, is the annual May Crowning Mass, celebrated with our school. We can't replicate the event completely, but I will be celebrating Mass on Friday May 8 at 2pm. I can't have hordes of fourth graders piping 'Immaculate Mary on their recorders, but we'll do our best. I will post the necessary link soon.

I wanted to thank those of you who have been willing and able to continue supporting the parish financially during this difficult season. It is a great sign of faith to keep giving, even when income is uncertain. If you would like to make arrangements for EFT giving, simply email Kara Montplasil at the parish, and she will be able to assist you.

Please know that you are all so dear to me, and I am missing you. Lots. I pray for you all every day. Stay blessed! Stay well! Our Lady Help of the Sick, pray for us. I remain, in His name

Father Steve Woodland