



## SACRED HEART R.C. CHURCH

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July 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Sacred Heart,

Although we are not out of the COVID-19 crisis by any stretch of the imagination, we have made some progress since I last wrote you. Public celebration of the Sacraments is given back to us and we are so happy to be a worshipping parish again. Any restrictions regarding numbers, masks, distancing, sanitizing, etc. are understood and accepted.

Sacred Heart celebrated **Corpus Christi** with the traditional procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Check it out on the parish website ([www.sacredheartislandpark.com](http://www.sacredheartislandpark.com)). J. J. Byrne did the recording with a music overlay that was worthy of a Hollywood director.

**First Confessions and First Holy Communions** were celebrated here on the weekends of July 18-19 and 25-26. The children were focused, cooperative and happy. They actually seemed to enjoy participating in a “normal” event even with white masks with gold crosses.

We are planning **Confirmation** for the eighth graders on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. As it stands now, the seating will be very limited. Details will be shared when and as received from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Regarding the **San Gennaro feast**: Several pieces go into making the feast: Religious rites, food, rides, games, volunteers. Right now, except for the religious part, there are lots of questions but few answers are forthcoming from the powers above. What will we be allowed to have? Will people be willing to come? What about Games? Rides? Children Rides? Gambling? Volunteers to cook and serve?

San Gennaro has been very good to our parish and as of this moment his feast will be celebrated. There will be Mass and a procession. What will the rest look like? At this point, the committee and I are still trying to find out the “possible” and coordinate it with the “doable.”

We will be contacting you about **The Religious Education Program** which is essential to our parish mission and therefore will go forward. Again, we await information regarding class sizes and frequency and will communicate information as received.

CYO registration is postponed pending further directives and information from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

**Also postponed:**      The Rosary Tea Party  
                                 The Thanksgiving Dinner (we may be able to do delivery and takeout.)  
                                 The San Gennaro Anniversary Dinner  
                                 The Christmas Pageant  
                                 The Parish New Year's Party

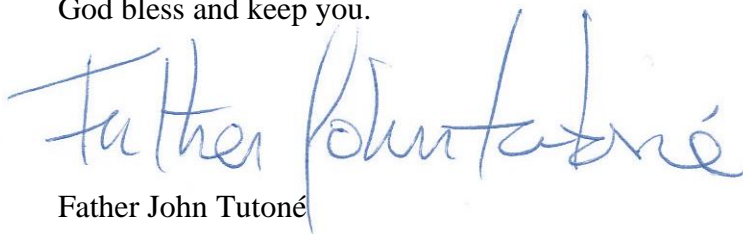
We continue to pray to Our Lady of Snows that the plague will finally disappear so that people can return to safety, employment and enjoyment. When will that time be? I will venture an opinion, a personal observation regarding the key element of that return to normalcy: VACCINE! After five weeks without it, the restoration of electricity was essential to our rebirth after Sandy. A vaccine may well begin our true restoration to normalcy.

Sincere thanks to all those faithful parishioners who have continued their support of Sacred Heart parish even though they were unable to attend Mass. Your generosity gives me great encouragement.

The numbers attending **Sunday Mass** have slowly increased so that we are at about a third of pre-COVID attendance. No Mass has had more people than allowed by the limited seating but just in case you are thinking about returning I can tell you that the Saturday 5 PM and the Sunday 12:15 PM are the least crowded. Also, you might think to try an 8 AM morning Mass or the 7 PM evening First Friday Mass (next one will be on August 7<sup>th</sup>).

God, in His eternal goodness, has preserved our parish family – again! The crisis is not over yet but we continue in safety measures and confidence that we are guided and protected.

God bless and keep you.



Father John Tutoné