**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK**

**12th/19th July 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

 Please accept my sincerest thanks for the many kind and thoughtful expressions of congratulations and support so many of you have extended as I recently crossed the milestone of my first year here as pastor of OLG. No question about it, this has indeed been quite a challenging first year, perhaps the most challenging first year I have ever had as a priest and pastor. Most of all, of course, this is because of the coronavirus pandemic that has had such a huge effect upon us all. But it is precisely in light of the challenges that COBVID-19 has confronted us with that I am so grateful for, and touched by, all the many expression of support, assistance and encouragement that parishioners here at OLG have shown throughout this past year, and especially since the pandemic began and all the many the constraints started confronting us. For this reason, while it has certainly been a most difficult first year in its own way, it has not been a year that has been at all without its blessings, joys and gifts—quite the contrary. May the coming year give us all the grace and wisdom needed to respond in the best way to the challenges that will continue to confront us, and to know more deeply through the mutual help we offer to one another, that the Lord Jesus himself is in our midst with his saving power.

 As we move through July and onward into August, just a word abut a slight modification to our weekly Mass schedule. For the foreseeable future, our Weekend Mass schedule will remain the same—a 5:30pm “Open” Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings, and a 10:00am Live-streamed Mass on Sunday mornings. (The “open” Vigil Mass will permit the gathering of limited numbers of parishioners and will require prior sign ups. If you wish to attend any of these open Vigil Masses be sure to sign up for the one(s) you plan to attend. The sign-up deadline for any of these open Masses is 4:30pm on the Thursday immediately prior to the Mass you wish to attend. Remember too that the wearing of facemasks and the observance of social distancing is required for all who attend any of these Open Masses.)

 Starting in August, however, our weekday Mass schedule will undergo a slight change. Since the COVID-19 shutdown first began, we have been offering a live-streamed Mass on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am each week. Beginning in August, however, this Tuesday morning Mass will be discontinued. The reasons for this are two-fold. First, I have received a request from Providence Mount Saint Vincent (PMSV) for some increased assistance with their morning Mass ministry, and the only way I can accommodate their request is to scale back slightly here at OLG with regard to my morning Mass routine. Second, for the eight months I was here at OLG prior to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic we had no Tuesday morning Mass at OLG. We started offering Mass on Tuesdays in part because it helped to make up for all the many plans and activities that we had been forced to cancel and curtail. Now, due to increased weekend opportunities for Mass, and because of my increased assistance at PMSV, we deemed it best to scale back a bit on our Tuesday schedule at OLG.

 God bless you all,

 Fr. Kevin