

Dear Parish Family-

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, normally commemorated on a Thursday, has been transferred by the New Jersey Bishops to Sunday May 16 due to Covid-19. Thursday May 13 will be a normal daily Mass. At this time the Obligation to attend Mass is still suspended due to Covid-19 but will most likely be imposed once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

In most of the United States, with a few exceptions like here in the North East, the Solemnity of the Ascension has been transferred to the nearest Sunday. This was a change permitted by the Holy See many years ago. There is a discussion underway among the Bishop's of the New Jersey Catholic Conference to consider this option after the pandemic has subsided, bringing the Church in New Jersey in line with the National Church. Stay tuned.

The State of New Jersey has begun the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, very slowly. As of this writing indoor occupancy limits have been increased however 6 feet of distance must be maintained, with the distance restriction in place we are only able to accommodate 268 people. However the CDC is considering lowering that to 3 feet, if they do it would require an act of the Governor to allow it in New Jersey. With some wiggle room beginning to unfold, beginning on Monday May 10 the distribution of Holy Communion will be placed back to the normal place in the Mass for Weekday Masses. Weekday Mass has fewer people and we can have an orderly dismissal without issues.

In anticipation of further restrictions being reduced, most likely by Summer, I would ask those who serve in various ministries; Deacons, Lectors, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Music Ministers etc to please contact the Parish Office- 732-370-0500 x204- indicating your willingness and availability to resume your ministry once restrictions have been lifted, this would greatly help our planning for that eventual time. Thank you!

Condolences are sent out to the Linda Jelley and her children on the death of their husband and father, they are 50+ year members of the parish.

If you are reading this before Saturday morning we received notice that Monmouth Family Practice at the Meridian Health Village in Jackson will be holding a Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic, Moderna Vaccine, on Saturday May 15 from 7am-12noon. To reserve a spot call 732-987-5545. They have had several successful clinics and it is fast, easy and safe.

Peace and Good – Fr. Bambrick