

## A Message from our Pastor

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Rev. Philip D. Reifenberg

January 24, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

The word is out: Ash Wednesday with distribution of ashes is on! However, we'll be doing it "Roman style" – that is, wordlessly sprinkling ashes on the top of each individual's head after blessing the ashes and pronouncing the customary admonition (either "Repent and be faithful to the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return") over the whole assembly. So, on Ash Wednesday we will have three Masses at STA (8:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.) and four Masses at SJB (8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and a private Mass for the SJB School children during the school day). (The afternoon/evening Masses are intended to accommodate Faith Formation students and their families at both STA and SJB.)

At SJB it will be necessary to [pre-register](#) for attendance at any of the three public Masses; if you are registering as a family, please be sure to indicate the number of adults and the number of children so the right amount of space may be reserved for you. There will not be pre-registration at STA. If it appears at any of the STA Masses that we've reached capacity in the Church we will open the Church Hall and live stream Mass downstairs to accommodate the overflow, and both ashes and Communion will be brought downstairs for distribution. Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at STA we will have our regular Wednesday morning hour-long Exposition of the Holy Eucharist.

On Palm Sunday we will be distributing palms again. For the convenience of parishioners who are hesitant to return to Mass because of COVID we will figure out a way to have palms available for pick-up between Masses on Sunday and in the Church foyers on Monday and Tuesday.

Finally (well, for the moment, in any case!), the St. Blaise Blessing of Throats: the Feast of St. Blaise is February 3rd, which this year falls on a Wednesday. So, the St. Blaise Blessing of Throats will be administered at STA during the 8:00 a.m. Mass following the homily. (The blessing will NOT be administered at SJB.) Again, since this is a Wednesday, the final blessing will lead right into Eucharistic Adoration and an hour-long Exposition of the Holy Eucharist.

Hope to see you in Church!

Father Phil