

## A Message from our Pastor

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Rev. Philip D. Reifenberg



January 10, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Well, we made it through Christmas without having to turn anyone away at the doors at any Mass at either STA or SJB. I'm kind of relieved about that but also a little disappointed that turn-out wasn't better. Come Lent, throughout the Archdiocese there will be a concerted effort to promote Sunday Mass attendance as a critically important expression of our Faith as Catholics, so get ready!

Speaking of Lent, Ash Wednesday is just around the corner: February 17th. Since I'm pretty sure we'll still be in Phase 2 of our Catholic Comeback Matrix, we will be expected to continue to practice social distancing at Mass, which makes distribution of ashes a little challenging. It looks we will have a separate Mass for the children in our evening Faith Formation Programs at both STA and SJB; we will have Masses at 8:00 a.m. and late afternoon at each parish, as well, for the convenience of all parishioners. (The time for the late afternoon Mass will depend on when the Faith Formation Program Mass is scheduled so that we can be sure to allow adequate time for cleaning between Masses.) The SJB School children will have a separate Mass to accommodate all of them and their teachers.

But before Lent gets here, we've got something else on the Calendar. As you know, January 22nd is the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade. The Catholic Church in the United States has observed that date each year as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn. To honor this Day of Prayer, in years past Archbishop ListECKi has presided over an Archdiocesan Respect Life Mass. This year, he thinks that instead of having one Mass for the whole Archdiocese we should have a special Mass in each of the ten deaneries.

So, at 12:00 Noon on Friday, January 22nd, we will be offering a special Respect Life Mass at St. John the Baptist in Plymouth with Bishop James Schuerman presiding as celebrant. This Mass is open to the public, with the focus on members of parishes in the deanery (Sheboygan and Fond du Lac Counties), of course. Because of the requirement to observe social distancing, we are asking anyone wishing to attend this special Mass to register, as is the SJB weekend practice. Registration for our Respect Life Mass is now open. Just call the SJB office (920-892-4006) or go to the SJB website.

Hope to see you in Church!

Father Phil