

## **NOTE FROM FR. JOHN**

June 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Thank you to those who replied to the last Flocknote. We received about a dozen suggestions. There was definitely a consensus about missalettes: keep them but have families take them home. Many of us remember the days before the Vatican Council (1960's) when each individual came to mass with his/her own missal. Therefore, before regular Sunday mass begins again:

(1) Please stop by the church between 9-4 and take a missalette(s) to have as your own and bring it to church each weekend. Take the cover with it and label it with your name. You may choose to sanitize the cover but remember the missalettes have not been used in two months.

If we run out of missalettes for you to take home, we will simply order more. The present missalette runs through November. In the fall we will order new missalettes to cover 2021 and will set a date or dates for pickup. This way we retain the advantage of having the mass readings, prayers, and music accessible to all our parishioners. We will maintain about 20 missalettes at the back of the church for visitors. Speaking of music, when Sunday mass resumes with a congregation, the congregation will be asked, as things now stand, to refrain from singing, to avoid spreading saliva. We will evaluate this on a week to week basis. I know this will be a real sacrifice for our parishioners since we have a great singing parish. However, with the cantor and my loud voice we will try to make up for what is lacking in communal song.

(2) We have ordered 20 touchless hand sanitizers for church, school, and parish hall. They are on backorder because the demand is heavy, as you can imagine. They will be wall-mounted as soon as we obtain them. We have also marked off the pews for social distancing in preparation for resuming Sunday mass. However, we are not marking off pews for singles, couples, families, etc. Several have suggested that we designate certain masses for seniors, couples, families, etc. My style is not to micro-manage every detail. We are adults. Gauge your own level of risk-taking. Wear masks, maintain social distancing, carry hand sanitizer. If you chose not to attend mass immediately, understood. Remember, the obligation to attend is suspended at this time.

(3) In terms of the printed parish bulletin: While I do believe that contact between an usher, handing out a bulletin, and a parishioner, is a warm and welcoming gesture, we are in a new age when caution and safety are the bywords. A number of people read the bulletin and leave it in the pew to be picked up by the ushers afterwards. At present, the bulletin is handled by at least 3 people. For a number of people, the info in the bulletin can be digested in 5 minutes and the bulletin discarded. As one parishioner noted: Think of how many trees can be saved! When I worked for Safeway and Finast supermarkets as a high school student, the heaviest cases to lift were Ken-L Ration dog food. When the bulletin covers arrive, their cases are just as heavy, trust me. A lot of paper for brief use. As a consequence, we will publish on our website the info normally contained in our printed bulletin (announced masses, local events, school open houses, etc.) and cease handing out printed editions. In addition, we will post the weekly info on our parish bulletin boards. Our website links us to the world, the printed bulletin is limited in distribution and circulation. We will be looking at ways to make our website more impactful. Suggestions?

(4) Please be careful of email phishing scams. If a suspicious email comes from me or the parish, **CALL THE PARISH TO VERIFY.** No matter how savvy we are, in a moment of inattention, we can be easily scammed to give over personal information. Please be careful. Verify, verify, verify!

(5) It should come as no surprise that parishes have suffered a decline in income, as have families, small businesses, and corporations, etc. The diocese informed me that in the fall we will implement an increased offertory campaign here at the Magdalene. I rejected this two years ago when the diocese proposed it, believing that our Sunday collections reflected a great generosity among our parishioners and there was no need to initiate a campaign. While the level of our Sunday contributions is still very good, considering the circumstances, a little booster shot won't hurt. More about this in the coming months as the diocese works out the timeline. I am very grateful for your loyalty and generosity to the Magdalene and enjoy reading your supportive notes with your envelopes and donations. Yes, I have enough food!

(6) I understand that parishioners are still receiving correspondence from the diocese about the Cardinal's Appeal, even though they have already pledged or given. These solicitations are not coming from the parish. They are coming directly from the diocese. I have no control over these requests. But what it tells me is that the Appeal is falling far short of the goal diocesan-wide. Our Cardinal's Appeal goal: \$48,000; pledged: \$36,016.

(7) Since we are not ordering flowers for the altar, flowers from your garden are welcomed. Bringing them on a Friday or Saturday works fine. Just let us know you are coming.

(8) You should know that the Vatican has approved a special Preface for the Feast of Mary Magdalene (July 22), a unique honor: "It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, to glorify you in all things, almighty father, whose mercy is not less than your power, through Christ our Lord. He appeared in the garden and revealed himself to Mary Magdalene, who had loved him in life, witnessed him dying on the Cross, sought him as he lay in the tomb, and was the first to adore him, newly risen from the dead. He honored her with the office of being an apostle to the Apostles, so that the good news of new life might reach the ends of the earth. And so..." To my knowledge, only the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, John the Baptist, Peter and Paul have special prefaces.

(9) We will have a Drive-Thru Food Drop of Sunday, June 14th from 1-4pm in the church parking lot. These are the items needed: Tuna Fish, Rice, Pasta, Oatmeal, Healthy Cereal, Shelf Sustainable milk, and Diapers. Jerry's Soft Serve will be in the parking lot, \$3-5 a cup or milkshake. It reminds me that I have not had a milkshake in a long time. Vanilla sounds just about right.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:** Religious Education Forms are in the mail. Please fill them out and return them by June 15, 2020. Forms for new students to our program can be found on-line on our website or in the back of the church. For information call Dotty Meehan at 914-552-7628 or [dotmeehan@aol.com](mailto:dotmeehan@aol.com).

### **Prayer for an Act of Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy**

**Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

**CARDINAL'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020: As of 6/5//2020**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b># of Donors</b>	<b>Donor Goal</b>
\$48,000	\$39,316	89	130

**To make your gift online, visit [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org).**

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS:** Reminder: Please do not tape or staple the envelopes. Just seal them. The tape or staple causes problems with D. P. Murphy when they calculate the envelopes. Thank you so much!

**ANYONE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?** Please contact rectory at 914-631-0529 if you need help during this difficult time (food shopping, etc.).