



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church June 7, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

I rejoice at the thought of public Masses again in our church and I join with our deacons and staff in welcoming you back! The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is essentially a communal celebration. Happily, we will be able to properly celebrate again as a community, a people of God. As the same time, we know that “yellow” means caution, and that this Yellow Phase is also a restricted phase. So, we must all exercise some caution and common sense as we slowly, but surely, get back to normal.

The guidelines provided by the Archdiocese and that we have published are supposed to assist us in this journey. We do ask that for personal safety and the safety of others that all read and follow these guidelines to the best of everyone’s ability. The guidelines can be found in this week’s Sunday Bulletin or on our church website = olsh-hilltown.com. By doing so, we will be truly loving our neighbor, as we love ourselves.

Sadly, as we try to recover from the coronavirus, we are now presented with all of the civil unrest in our country. As Catholic Christians, we know that proclaiming the Gospel means working for a better world: a world of peace and justice. Let us continue to do so, and let us pray that justice will be done and that the peace of the Kingdom of God will reign in the hearts of all people and in our nation.

At the same time, let us truly continue to give thanks for the outstanding police force we have right here in Hilltown. They are out there day in and day out making our area safe, and we owe them a lot for that. May the Good Lord abundantly bless them for all that they do for us.

Our reopening happen to be occurring as we, as a church, observe Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday is a “newer” major Feast, only dating from the Fourteenth Century. Trinity Sunday is also the most contemplative of our Feasts, as we are asked to simply reflect on the One True God in Three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May the blessings of the Most Holy Trinity continue to be poured out on our parish and our families!

Next weekend, we will be celebrating Corpus Christi Sunday, and we will also be celebrating another ordination in our parish, the ordination of Mr. Gregg Hoyer to the Permanent Diaconate. That will give us two ordinations in the past year and will mean that our parish will have three great Deacons. What a blessing!!! Let us continue to pray for Gregg and his family as he makes his final preparation for the Order of Deacons.

Of course, because of the present situation, the ordination is limited to family. But happily, it can be watched live streamed from the seminary’s website. Just go to <https://www.scs.edu/> and click on the link. The Mass is Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 AM. May all of the Deacon Saints watch over Gregg and his family!! And through the prayers of all of God’s Angels and Saints may we continue to have many, many more vocations the priesthood, the diaconate, and the consecrated life from our parish.

I have included in this newsletter a beautiful reflection from St. Gregory the Great, and lastly, let us continue to pray for our first responders, all those who have coronavirus, all of those who have died from coronavirus, and for a day when this all will be truly over.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko



The Moral Reflections on the Book of Job by Pope St Gregory the Great “The Church rises like the dawn”

Since the dawn goes from darkness into light, it is right that the Church of the elect should be called “dawn” or “first light.” As it is led from the night of disbelief into the light of faith, it is opened up to the splendor of heavenly brightness just as the dawn bursts into day after darkness. How right are the words of the Song of Songs: *Who is she who is coming up like the dawn?* The holy Church seeks the rewards of heavenly life and is rightly called the dawn because it deserts the shadows of sin and sparkles in the light of righteousness.

There is something subtler to learn from this, on considering the nature of the dawn. Dawn, or first light, proclaims that the night is over but does not yet manifest the full brightness of the day. It dispels night, it gives a beginning to the day, but still it is a mixture of light and darkness. All of us who follow the truth in this life, are we not exactly like the dawn? Some of the things we do are truly works of the light, but others are not entirely free of the remnants of darkness. *No man is virtuous before you*, says the psalmist, and again Scripture says *we have all done wrong in many ways*.

This is why Paul does not say “the night has passed and day has come,” but *night has passed and day is approaching*, showing beyond doubt that he is still in the dawn, after the end of darkness but still before rising of the sun.

The Church of the elect will be fully “day” only when the darkness of sin is no longer mixed in with it. It will be fully day only when it shines with the perfect warmth of a light that comes from within. God shows that we are still going through this dawn when he says to Job, *Have you ever sent the dawn to its post?* Something that is being sent somewhere is being sent from one place or state to another.

What is the destined place of the dawn if not the perfect brightness of the eternal vision? And when it has reached its place, will it still have any of the darkness of the night that has passed? The dawn was intent on reaching its destined place when the psalmist said *My soul thirsts for the living God; when shall I appear before the face of God?* The dawn was hurrying to the place it knew to be its destiny when Paul said that he wanted to die and to be with Christ, and when he said *For me to live is Christ and to die is gain*.