

REUNITE IN CHRIST UPDATE

I would like to thank the reopening volunteers who have walked with us on this journey. Without them we would never have been able to open and keep everyone as safe as we could. They are heroes in the Kingdom of God! I am so proud of the team who took the time to create plans, research options and find help to carry out what was essential. Many other parishes looked at what we did and marveled at what we accomplished for God in such a short time. Some others have copied our communications with you and made it their own. We all need to be thankful for what we experienced. God is so good to us.

Transitioning into the next phase beginning the July 4th weekend we will begin live streaming one of our Masses on either Saturday night or Sunday morning. In this way those who connect with us electronically will become a part of the assembly. They will be able to experience us singing, listening to God's Word, and the sung responses. All of this is a step forward. We will try to get the word out to everyone as to which Mass will be live streamed. It might be different based on scheduling. What we do know is that once the live stream is complete, it is uploaded for everyone on YouTube. While this will not be available as early as it has been in the past, the greater joy of seeing the community in action will be a sign of hope to all who tune in. Watch the app and YouTube for when the live stream will begin each week.

Front Lawn Faith Gathering Ministry invites you to join us on July 10th after the 5 p.m. Celebration of the Eucharist. Bring your lawn chair and any specialty refreshment you would like. The parish will provide water and individually wrapped snacks to munch on. The front lawn gives us an excellent place to relax and reflect as a faith community. Mark your calendars for our hospitality moved outside on the front lawn.



Father John

GOD DOES NOT REJOICE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LIVING

Powerful words come from our first reading from the Book of Wisdom. It is an amazing testimony to the sacredness of life, and yet quickly the author points out the root of pain, envy. When we try to be someone we are not, when we lose the sense of who we are, we lose our nature as God intended. We lose the joy that we were created imperishable. In his letter to the people of Corinth, Paul speaks of the gracious act of the Lord, Jesus Christ. As the Son of God, He who was rich became poor. Once again He is inviting us to become comfortable in the joy of knowing who we are, loved and cherished by God.

One of the great stories told to me by my friend Carey Pinkowski was about an elite African runner who had won marathons on the big stage. Carey was trying to recruit him to run the Chicago Marathon. He told Carey, he had more than he needed and his family now had land that they never had before. It was enough, so he no longer needed to compete at the elite level. It was an amazing testimony to being at peace with what one has. When we think of abundance, of the wealth we see around us, it seems as if it is never enough and more is supposed to bring joy. Some entertainment industries pay unbelievable salaries and yet some still want more. But do they really find peace? Others have little, but the little they have brings so much joy.

God longs for us to be at peace. God longs for us to face the root of an evil which corrupts peace, envy. We are not to keep up with our neighbors, we are to love them and our enemies as well. We are to rejoice in all they have and not be jealous. Peace is elusive if we are always comparing ourselves to others. When I compare, there is always a loser and a winner. Both are usually myself. When I compare, the scales of justice are tipped based on my opinion of what I feel is important.

God longs for us to hold on to the reality that we were formed to be imperishable. We were formed with a soul that is lifted to eternity. When we embrace this, reflect on it and meditate on it, we can become incredibly filled with a peace this world cannot offer and that money can't buy.



Father John Ouper