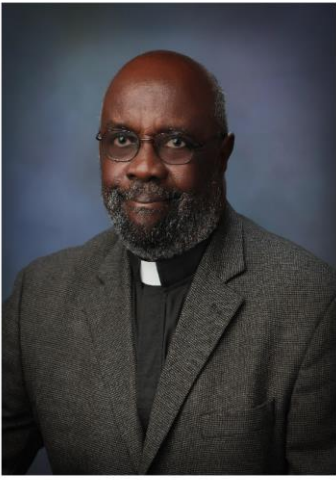


MESSAGES FROM OUR PASTOR



GOOD MORNING!

As I begin, I would like to thank everyone who handed in their weekly offerings which helped to off-set our financial obligations as a parish. Your sacrifices and commitments are greatly appreciated. In a letter to all churches, Bishop Deshotel outlined the plan and strategy for re-opening our places of worship.

At this time, I would encourage all to complete their 2020 Census form. Our committee member, Mr. Tyrone Rogers, writes, "As we navigate through the current pandemic, it is important that each of us complete the 2020 Census. Completing the census helps determine the distribution of federal funds in our community for schools, health care facilities, housing, Medicare, infrastructure, our streets and highways, just to name a few. Remember, we can all make a difference and your responses cannot and will not be used against you in any way".

- 1) I am attaching the Bishop's letter on how this decision was reached and by whom!
- 2) The expectations and responsibilities of the faithful.
- 3) I am meeting on Wednesday, May 6th with the leaders so that we can prepare for re-opening with our ministers and volunteers so that we can better serve you as you return to worship.
- 4) Our maximum seating capacity is 79 for St. Joseph and 65 for St. Anthony. Once our church has reached the maximum safe capacity, the overflow of parishioners may join us in the Bishop Perry Learning Center for a simulcast (televised version) or attend one of our other masses during the week. The day(s) and time will be forthcoming.
- 5) Please note that there will be some changes in that we are charting new waters. But in prayer and with patience we can do this. We are all in this together!

I pray your week goes well. If all goes well, we will re-open on May 15th, 2020. There is much more to come. Be patient and have a GREAT week!

Rev. Thomas James, S.V.D.