

June 6, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write to you today on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, I rejoice to welcome back so many parishioners who have been away from Mass and from Jesus in the Eucharist because of the pandemic. Each weekend the number of people filling the pews of our church increases. Please know that our parish is ready and eager to welcome you back home, along with many new parishioners as well.

During this period of transition, as the restrictions on public and religious gatherings are lifted, we continue to evaluate how best to build an even stronger, more vibrant parish community. There are some things that are integral to our life as a community of faith that we eagerly look forward to resuming, such as the *Light of the World* Evangelization Ministry. At the same time there are some things that began in response to the pandemic that we are committed to continuing, like the *Care* Support Ministry. In order to assist us in this effort to build a stronger and more vibrant parish, I invite you to complete a short survey online at stmaryuxbridge.org/back-to-mass-survey. If you're unable to access the survey online, please complete the survey sheet included with this letter and return it to the church when you're finished.

While many parishioners have already begun to return to Mass, and many more will return over the next several weeks, we have begun planning for an official *Welcome Back Home* celebration for the entire community on the weekend of August 28 – 29, 2021. Details will follow in the coming weeks. I think we could all use a celebration this year, and I personally can't wait!

Finally, thank you to all of you who have so generously supported our parish even in the midst of such trying times. I dare to say that no other parish has weathered the storm of the past year as well as we have, and that's because of all of you and your support for one another and this community. At times like these we can appreciate more profoundly the gift of faith and the importance of belonging to a parish family like ours.

God bless you and carry on!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Nicholas Desimone
Pastor