



St. Charles Borromeo Church

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Dear Parishioners,

It's great to be back home after my retreat and some vacation time. Find some time to be refreshed in these summer months. It was good to see many of you back to in-person mass on Sunday. These are certainly joyful times and days ahead in our journey back to normalcy. As of June 27 weekend across the Archdiocese, we went back to full capacity seating and the Sunday obligation was reinstated. I welcome and encourage everyone to return to full in-person participation at the Sunday Eucharist, the source and summit of our catholic faith. I ask that you to reach out to someone you may not have seen these last few months, check on them, and invite them to return. Together we have persevered through the challenges of the last 15 months of the pandemic. We all made efforts that helped to keep everyone safe here at Saint Charles. Thank you so very much!

Let us come back and begin to re-build our faith community here at Saint Charles. When we gather as one, we are fulfilling the command of Christ. We become the body of Christ for one another. In baptism we became part of the body of Christ, called and empowered to carry on Jesus' mission, driving out evil and ministering to those in need. **There are many hopeful signs for the future with new beginnings, opportunities to get involved, and new relationships to be formed. You may find yourself being called by God to contribute to your community in a new way.** That's what parish is! Members of the body of Christ, connected to a worship place and time. It is therefore important to maintain a strong connection to your parish.

The church now asks us to come back to mass in-person. I understand if there are folks worried about this return to normal. The church has never required anyone to go to mass who had physical issues or any justifiable reasons such as old age, illness, or infirmity: this is still the case. But it's good for each one of us to be honest with ourselves about missing in-person mass at this time. If we're already going to public places and restaurants, heading to the ballgame, going to the mall, visiting the hairdresser, or going to family gatherings, or schools or work or other places and mixing with people at close quarters, then it's time to come back to mass. I miss you all!

Let us pray about it because it is a wonderful gift to go to mass, and we all need to make sure we're going to mass if we can. We implore the intercession of Saint Charles Borromeo as we bear witness to the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar in this year of the Eucharist.

May God bless you and keep you always in this love.

-- Fr. Canisius Tah