



**St. Joseph Catholic Church, Milton, La.
Pentecost Sunday**

This weekend we close out what seems to many like a short Easter season, since we have only been back to the public celebration of Mass within the last few weekends. Personally, it feels as if it has been much longer since I have joined you all in worship at our beloved Church in Milton. I miss our full and lively congregation, especially the voices visiting after Mass and the sounds of our littlest ones during Mass. Pentecost though tells the real story, 50 days after the resurrection of Christ have passed. Easter is over but our faith can not be. The Holy Spirit is with us! Come Holy Spirit, we must pray!

A Note about Phase 1

As you know the state of Louisiana remains in Phase 1. Our governor has promised to give us more information on Monday about what the future may hold in the following week. We have had plenty of room with our 25% capacity coupled with the dispensation. The 10:30 AM Mass last week did reach capacity. To make it easy for you to find a safe seat, I placed the four pew sections into groups so that we can get the optimize seating at every Mass. This will have to be an act of charity on everyone's part, I know we all like our favorite seats. Ultimately, the seat Jesus has prepared for those in Heaven must be shared anyway.

Those with larger households, 4, or 5 per group should sit in the sections that directly face the Altar when entering. We normally call this the front sections. The side sections are great for smaller families, couples, or singles. The cushioned chairs and gathering space are reserved for singles or couples. Don't worry I am not going to arm wrestle any one for sitting in the wrong section, if you choose to sit in sections **John** and **Luke** and you are alone, simply move to the center of that pew as soon as you enter so others may have a seat.

With safe social distancing, we can no longer “climb” over one another. Our long pews can sit two families of five within a safe distance. Or three couples appropriately distanced. Easy to follow charts are posted at the entrance. The last two Sundays have been flowing really well!

If you have not rejoined us yet, the Mass at 4 PM and 5 PM seem to be less attended.

Volunteers are still needed after each Mass to quickly wipe down the pews and spray sanitize the restrooms. A special solution, cloths, gloves, and instructions are found near the Gathering Space Kitchen. Thanks to several of you who have stepped up to help in different ways.

Adoration Every Wednesday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is back for the summer! Many of the Wednesday evenings, beginning this Wednesday, June 3 will include music with Spencer and Nick. Deacon Keith Duhon will preside. I will be available for confession on some of those nights. Adoration begins at 5:30 PM but the church remains open all day. Adoration will conclude at 7 PM. Come for a few minutes or stay a while.

Daily Mass Schedule Phase I

Our schedule for daily/weekday Mass remains the same during Phase I. **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday** only at **8:30 AM**. Confessions available immediately after Mass. The Sunday Mass schedule remains the same. Confessions are on Saturday but from 3 PM to 3:30 PM. Line starts outside the rear Exit door of the Church.

Tithing, Offertory, Financial Gifts to the Parish, Online Giving

On behalf of our parish family, thank you for your weekly or monthly sacrifice to St. Joseph. For those who might be new to the parish or if you are a young married couple or family unfamiliar with tithing, parishioners can now give online via **Parish 52** on the diocese web site. About 30 parishioners/families use this online program. The web address is <https://www.diola.org/online-parish-giving> End of year statements of charitable contributions may be requested each January.

Offerings can still be mailed but not to the physical GPS church address. The Post Office does not mail forward. Our safe mailing address is **P.O. Box 299, Milton, LA 70558**. Several parishioners choose to use the online bill payment of their banks/bank draft. Those over age 70, check with your IRA financial advisors on how to make a qualified charitable distribution to St. Joseph. Some parishioners work for corporations that match donations to non profits.

Pray for Rev. Mr. Andrew Killeen (soon to be Fr. Andrew Killeen)

Two summers ago Deacon Andrew was in the hospital ministry program as a seminarian and resided here for the summer. He had a great experience and the Knights of Columbus was happy to support him with prayer and gifts to help his formation. He will be ordained a priest on Saturday, June 6 at the Cathedral. Pray for future Fr. Andrew Killeen!

We will be happy to welcome Father back to offer a Mass for us! Also being ordained to the priesthood is Br. John Joseph Bourque of the Community of Jesus Crucified. He is the nephew of Jed and Monica Bourque who serve and attend the 8 AM Mass.

Welcome to seminarian Eric Hernandez

Since our hospitals have had to devote their energy and planning to COVID-19, the hospital chaplain seminarian program will be postponed until next year. In its place we welcome a second year philosophy **seminarian Eric Hernandez** who has been studying this year at St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington. Eric has a lot of energy and is looking forward to learning as much as he can about parish life and ministry. He is a 2019 graduate of Lafayette High School.

Usually our seminarians for the summer are close to ordination, whereas this will be Eric's first summer assignment. I remember mine at St. Mary Magdalen in Abbeville! He's eager to learn and EAT. I'm dropping a big hint here. We don't have a cook at St. Joseph so if you would like to volunteer any of your homestyle casserole creations or one's you want to test on us, we will welcome them. Check with Chenell 856-5997 or secretary@stjo-milton.org

Enjoy your start to the summer! Looking forward to seeing you around the parish and hearing about summer plans! I continue to pray for your special intentions, for the sick, for those who are homebound and nursing home bound, and those who have no one to pray for them.

Fr. Schambough