

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

May I wish all of you a “Happy Anniversary”! You might be wondering what Anniversary we are all celebrating and here it is: Last year, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, our Church doors were opened for the celebration of Sunday Mass after being closed for a number of months. At that time, Bishop O’Connell wrote these words: “The Catholic faithful, however, need the Eucharist for their spiritual health and well-being. It is an essential part of Catholic life, and we cannot continue to do without the Eucharist and other Sacraments indefinitely.” How truly profound! How the Eucharist has sustained and strengthened us this past year, whether we have come to the Feast here at Sacred Heart or, through an Act of Spiritual Communion, received the loving presence of Jesus into our hearts. The Sequence for this great Solemnity reminds us:

“This the truth each Christian learns,
Bread into his flesh he turns,
To his precious blood the wine.”

As our numbers at Church continue to grow as well as those celebrating our livestream Mass, let us never forget the sad, bitter times of being deprived of Church and Sacraments, Word and Eucharist, Silence and Song and joyfully give thanks that the Lord never forgot us or abandoned us but graced our simple meals at home, heard our humble prayers offered in childlike trust, joined hands with us across the greatest of distances and encouraged us on our journey to the place that was always waiting for us at the Eucharistic Banquet. We truly are a Pilgrim People, who have crossed the barren desert so that we might satisfy our hungry hearts with the Gift of Finest Wheat. From our Psalm:

“How shall I make a return to the Lord
For all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
And I will call upon the name of the Lord.”

Anniversary blessings!

Father John