



MAY UPDATE



Dear parishioners,

We have turned the corner to the beginning of another month. Might we be closer to an end to all of this? Perhaps!, but only time will tell. Let's keep our chins up and our hearts hopeful, as we move through the Easter Season on the way to Pentecost. May the Lord's Spirit be that which gives us the patient endurance to wait on Him as He purifies and perfects our faith.



At this time there isn't much to report regarding immediate changes to Mass attendance in the Diocese of Portland.

In light of Gov. Mills' plan to reopen Maine, it appears that for the remainder of the month of May, there will be no public Masses celebrated in Catholic churches throughout the diocese, as we experienced in April. In accord with Phase I of the governor's plan, Bishop Deeley is allowing parking lot Masses to be celebrated in parishes with the following stipulations: cars need to be parked with one empty space on either side of each car to maintain social distancing protocols, the windows must remain up, only family

members from the same household should be in the car, and there will be no reception of Holy Communion because attendees must remain in the car at all times. For obvious reasons, I am choosing not to celebrate parking lot Masses. For this reason, I encourage all of you to continue in May the routine you settled into in April until Phase II of the governor's plan takes effect in June.

Phase II of the plan is anticipated to begin in June, unless things change for the worse in May. Should things proceed as planned, however, then social gatherings of up to 50 people will be allowed. Because St. Peter the Fisherman Parish is a small parish, it is foreseeable that we may be able to start having Masses again in our parish churches in June. There will need to be some creative planning in order to accommodate everyone at Mass so I will be working on this over the next few weeks. If you have any creative suggestions, please send them to me via email. Once we get closer to June, I hope to be able to update you with a more positive outlook. UNTIL THEN, PLEASE KNOW THAT NO CONCRETE PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE. This is certainly hopeful news, but also certainly not definitive news. Please pray that we continue to move toward a more normal routine.

Sacred Heart Roof



We have been tremendously blessed by those of you who are supporting the Capital Campaign whether by your monetary contributions or by your prayers. Quite frankly, the Capital Campaign is proving to be a terrific success.

As most of you know, in the latter part of 2019, we were able to rebuild 3 chimneys, replace the antiquated boiler in the Machias rectory, and install a metal roof on St. Michael

church in Cherryfield. We are now ready to move forward with installing a metal roof on Sacred Heart church in Lubec. Final preparations are being made with the roofing contractor, and we anticipate beginning the work in May or June. Please pray the weather is cooperative during this time. Thank you, again, for your continued generosity.



2020 Catholic Appeal

Some have asked me if the Diocese of Portland will be having the Annual Catholic Appeal this year. The short answer to that question is, "Yes." In fact, if you contributed to the Catholic Appeal last year, then you have by now received the first mailing of information regarding this year's Appeal. I will soon have a report on what our goal is this year, and as soon as I have that information, I will send it to you. For those of you who have asked, and for those of you who were wondering, the programs supported by the Catholic Appeal are in need again this year. Please consider making a pledge to help our parish achieve its 2020 goal. If you would like more information on where that money is spent, please click the button below for more information from the diocesan website. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

2020 CATHOLIC APPEAL

I thank all of you who continue to support the parish financially during this difficult time. Your sacrifices and generosity are certainly recognized, and I am very grateful. Thank you as well for your prayers for me, as I continue to pray for you. May God hear our prayers for an end to this difficult time.

With prayers for your health, and God's abundant
blessings,

Fr. Philip
