



Unitatis et Fides



Unity and Faith

May 1, 2020

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

*Dear Parishioners of Sts. Leo and Martin parishes,*

*Happy May Day and Blessed Feast of St. Joseph the Worker!!*

*As many of you are aware the governor has set new Directed Health Measures (DHMs) starting May 4th which includes the re-opening of Churches. I have consulted with the parish councils and after great discussion we concluded that due to our proximity to Lincoln it would be prudent for us to follow the Lincoln and Lancaster County parishes and re-open on May 11th which is the following week.*

*This will also allow us more time to figure out how best to comply with the "re-opening guidelines" they have established in the new DHMs. Please click [here](#) for a document that we were given that highlights some of those things we are to do, or not do. I did add one suggestion specific for our two parishes that I foresaw, however, much of it cannot be changed due to it being set by the state.*

*You may note some variances in what parishes are doing and that is due to the Archbishop urging Pastors to do what is best for their parishes. I will continue to consult with the parish councils on decisions and you are more than welcome to share your thoughts with me too. The faithful are asked, especially due to the limitation on Church capacities in following the DHMs, to attend Mass at their home parishes and not travel to other parishes. As you know there is much carry over between our two parishes which I think is still fine to do but going to another parish other than Leo/Martin should be avoided.*

*I appreciate your continued patience as we work through this together. I know many of you are eager to receive the Eucharist again and I am just as eager to provide the sacraments again. As a parish priest this has been a humbling and trying time for me to be separated from you. Nevertheless, I appreciate the guidance and counsel of the parish council members and all those who share their opinion. Most of what is happening right now in our country and around the world is beyond our control. This becomes a great opportunity and reminder for us to trust and entrust ourselves to our Lord: Jesus, I trust in You. Our Good Shepherd desires to protect and lead us to green pastures, consolation, peace and life in abundance. There is no hard and fast plan so we have to develop it as we go but we do it together!*

*We will be sending more information in the coming week or so as we get some things figured out so please be on the look out. As you can see from the attached document we will be needing volunteers for things.*

*I am still very much available for confession, spiritual direction, etc. so please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I would be more than happy to assist you in any way that I can!!!*

*As always, if you have any questions please let me know and I will do my best to answer them.*

*Be assured of my continued prayers!*

*Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Sparling*