

ST. ISIDORE PARISH  
QUAKERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

FR. BRABAZON'S ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> 2020



Dear Friends,

I hope and pray that you are all doing well these days! I am very happy to share that, a little over a week ago, Archbishop Pérez has asked me to remain at Saint Isidore and to take on the responsibility of becoming the pastor of our parish. I was able to share this news at our Sunday Masses last weekend, and I am so very grateful for the many kind words of congratulations and assurances of prayer that so many of you shared with me. Archbishop Pérez's decree takes effect on July 8<sup>th</sup>. One of our Archdiocese's auxiliary bishops, Bishop Fitzgerald, will be coming to Saint Isidore Parish on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate our 5:00 PM Mass. At that Mass, I will be canonically installed as the next pastor of St. Isidore Parish. I hope that many of you will consider attending the 5:00 PM Mass on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and joining in the celebration of this special moment in the life of our parish.

I am also delighted to share with you the good news that, as of midnight last night, our region has been moved into the "green" phase of return to business and community activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to immediately note that, while this movement forward does make more things possible in the days ahead, the "Green" phase still carries with it the need for continued social distancing and the use of face-masks/coverings while in public settings. For the time being, Archbishop Pérez is continuing to dispense the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from their obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The Archbishop has assured us that we will have several weeks of public notice before this obligation is reinstated. Even so, with this movement into a slightly less restricted phase, I sincerely hope that more members of our parish community, who are able, will return to regular participation at Holy Mass on Sundays.

With this movement into the "Green" phase, we are now more able to move forward with some more of our typical parish activities. Regarding celebrations of the Sacred Liturgy, most of the protocols we currently have in place will remain as they are for some time to come. However, little by little, some things will slowly start returning to normal.

Starting next weekend, on Saturday June we will begin again to gather for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation within the church building; in other words, we will discontinue our drive-up protocol and have a line form within the building. This also makes it possible to have confessions again on Saturday afternoon, while parishioners are gathering for the evening Mass. Starting next weekend, the scheduled times for confessions will be on Saturdays, from 10:30 until 11:30 AM and from 4:00 until 4:45 PM. For at least the length of the "Green" phase,

we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance in the Multi Purpose room, and lining up in the narthex hallway—in order to engage in appropriate social distancing.

As of Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, it will be possible again for parishioners to visit the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle in the Day Chapel, throughout the day Monday through Friday, and during Confessions on Saturdays. For the present time, the Day Chapel will remain closed during the celebration of the Weekend Masses, due to cleaning concerns. All scheduled Masses (including Daily Masses, Funerals, and Weddings) will continue to be celebrated in the Main Church, for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, it is now possible for *some* of our parish groups and committees to begin meeting again in-person, if they choose to do so. This applies only to meetings that typically take place at the Church campus; meetings are still not currently able to take place within our School buildings. Group leaders should reach out to our parish office to discuss arrangements for all meetings before publishing meeting schedules, as social distancing and cleaning requirements may necessitate adjustments to past practices and/or continued postponement of in-person gatherings.

As we move forward during these days, I pray that we all find opportunities for some summer rest and relaxation—though, admittedly, that might look very different for most of us this year. I also pray that we all find opportunities for meaningful encounters with our Lord. Let's all ask Him to renew in our community, and in each of our hearts, a strong desire for greater holiness and an increase in His grace. Be sure of my prayers for you all!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Ken

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