



The Shell

An e-letter for

Saint James the Greater Church,
3565 Hubble Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

June 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everybody who has been to Mass for following the “best practices” we have set up. We still have to work on slowing the exiting after Mass, but we’ll get it down soon.

Let me say once again, things keep changing. The information we are given from the government continues to adjust because the scientific data is changing. The recommendations from the Conference of Bishops and our archdiocese adjust in reaction to the governmental information. When the data changes, the planning changes. In short, we find that what was recommended last week, isn’t recommended any more. What wasn’t considered last week, is this week. For instance, it has been a standard recommendation that everybody use hand sanitizer often throughout the day. Now the reports are about how this can be harmful to one’s skin and shouldn’t be done unless really necessary. We wait for the next update.

The feasibility of some suggestions is always impacting planning, e.g. it was recommended by some that desks in schools had to be 6 feet apart. Nobody has that much extra space in a school! The same suggestion was made if a parish was going to have a festival. Provisions should be made so people stay 6 feet apart. Sure, that’s going to work!

People are noticing the contradictions all around them. We have limited our seating capacity in church for proper social distancing. From my own observation, I am pretty sure nobody decreased the capacity at Haubner Field last Saturday. All day our large parking lot was almost full. So, why the limit on how many people can come to church. You’re right...Haubner isn’t an enclosed space like a church but the people are closer together than at church. I am sure of that by just watching the parking lot. It is logical that people question whether anybody really believes the 6-foot recommendation has to be followed. This has been a constant point throughout the pandemic because it has been proven to help reduce the spread.

I know that there will be people who will not be comfortable coming back to church until the virus threat is over. That is one’s choice. The #4 guideline clearly says, “Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to stay home and join the Church by viewing Mass on TV or live-streamed Masses.” As we move ahead, we will not be able to remove all risk. We can only minimize the risk.

Father Nolker