



1301 Sycamore Avenue, Tustin, California 92780  
Office: 714-544-3250 | Fax: 714-838-1996  
E-mail: [SCTParish@stceciliak8.org](mailto:SCTParish@stceciliak8.org) | Website: [www.stcecilia.org](http://www.stcecilia.org)

## The Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist

August 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First of all, please allow me together with my fellow priests and deacons to give thanks to God for you and give thanks to you for your love, passion, support, prayer and generosity to the life of our St. Cecilia Church and School. Speaking of the life of our Parish, I would like to share with you some positive news as we are approaching toward the month of September after experiencing the challenging summer because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **1. Opening our St. Cecilia Parish School.**

I would like to share with you that we – clergy team, Mrs. Alvarado the principal, faculty and staff – have been working very hard behind the scenes to prepare everything well to meet with Covid-19 protocols for the first day of the in-person class from K to 6 Grades on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mother Mary. Because of the social distancing practice, each grade is divided into 2 classrooms. Thus, our Parish hall is now used to serve as 2 classrooms and we cannot use the hall until next June 2021. Please don't hesitate to call our parish school admission office (714-544-1533) to learn more information about the registration of this new academic year which will be opening soon right after Labor Day.

### **2. Tier 2.**

As expected, the State of California announced a new COVID-19 "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" which replaces the prior County Monitoring Watch List. The new system uses 4 tiers based on infection rate (cases per 100,000 people) and testing positivity rate. At this time, all diocesan churches are in the most restrictive tier which means that Masses are to continue outdoors with our present protocols being practiced. However, if Orange County trends continue, it may be feasible to move to tier 2 shortly after Labor Day. With my own interpretation by that time we would be allowed to have indoor Masses with a limit of 100 people or 25% of capacity, whichever is fewer.

Let us continue to encourage one another to practice all safety protocols so virus levels stay low and we can hopefully move to tier 2 shortly after Labor Day. If it is as we hope, while we celebrate indoor Masses, we continue to leave 120 chairs outdoor under the tent area as an overflow and we will go back to our regular 8 Sunday Masses schedule.

### **3. Receiving Communion on the hand.**

As of present, we continue to have outdoors Masses and Confessions. 8:30am from Sundays to Sundays: Mass is offered in English. 6:30pm on Tuesdays and Sundays: Outdoor Mass is offered in Spanish. 6:30pm on Thursdays and Saturdays: Outdoor Mass is offered in Vietnamese. 9:00am on Saturdays: Outdoor Confessions are heard in 3 languages.

Please note that we layout 3 sections inside the tent area and 2 sections outside the tent area (far left and far right beyond the dividers). Each section has its own station for receiving Communion on the hand. Each communion station has a blue line. The minister stands at the blue star. The next communicant please stands behind the current communicant at the next blue star. We are constantly reminded to keep 6 feet distancing. When you turn back/around to receive Communion, you please exit each row towards to the right side, except the 1<sup>st</sup> section next to the parking lot, please exit toward the left side to receive Communion.

Here is the number of our chairs. We have 120 chairs for 3 sections inside the tent area. Each section has 40 chairs (5 columns and 8 rows). We have 112 chairs for 2 sections outside the tent area. Each section has 56 chairs (7 columns and 8 rows). During the weekday, you please find chairs in the 3 sections inside the tent area. We have 3 stations to receive Communion on the hand. On the weekend, you first find chairs in the 3 sections inside the tent area, and when all are full, please find chairs in the 2 sections outside the tent area (far left and far right beyond the dividers). We have 5 stations to receive Communion on the hand.

### **4. Receiving Communion on the tongue.**

We have a separate station for our brothers and sisters who choose to receive Communion on the tongue at our 8:30am daily English Mass, from Sundays to Sundays. You may remember the Diocesan directives that came out in June 2020: the faithful have the right to receive Holy Communion on the hand or on the tongue. Several parishes in the diocese are putting out kneelers, inviting those who wish to receive on the tongue to kneel. Priests at these parishes have indicated that they have not yet touched anyone's tongue as the people are more still (stable) and recollected, not moving their head around. Thus, St. Cecilia's 8:30am daily English Mass (from Sundays to Sundays) offers a separate station for Communion on the tongue, located between the black speaker and the green altar. The minister does sanitize his/her hand after each distribution.

### **5. Visiting our beautiful Eucharistic Chapel after Labor Day.**

We, your clergymen, have missed seeing you, grace-filled sons and daughters of God, kneeling in our beautiful Eucharistic Chapel and having your private conversation with God the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. It's good news that we open the Chapel, beginning on Tuesday, 9/8, from 9:00am to 12:00noon, from Monday to Friday, for your private visit to our Risen Lord, the Most Holy Eucharist, in the consecrated wooden Tabernacle. Please observe all the Covid-19 protocols. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

## **6. Opening our Main Office after Labor Day.**

Since the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have not received enough weekly collection as before. We regretfully furloughed our Main Office staff. While we have been closing the office during this time, the clergy team, volunteers and I have worked extra hours to carry out the daily front desk mechanic tasks. Beginning on Tuesday, 9/8, we will open our Main Office from 9:00am to 12 noon, from Monday to Friday, with the assistance of our bilingual volunteers. If you are interested to volunteers to help, please leave me a voicemail at 714-544-3250, Ext. 14, or e-mail me at [bthai@stceciliak8.org](mailto:bthai@stceciliak8.org). Please help us to encourage one another to support St. Cecilia's via online donation at [www.stcecilia.org](http://www.stcecilia.org) or dropping off the weekly envelopes at daily 8:30am English Mass or at the office mail slot. I thank you so very much for your generosity.

## **7. OCF – Orange Catholic Foundation.**

You and all donors and friends of the Orange Catholic Foundation have received the electronic letter from Mr. James F. Normandin, Acting Executive Director of the Orange Catholic Foundation, on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. I quote here one of his paragraphs: "As the acting Executive Director of OCF I can state for the record that, after my review of the situation, Bishop Vann and the Diocese made it clear that OCF was to comply with all donor intentions and restrictions in connection with any grants, and OCF did not and would not provide funds for any improper purpose in violation of donors' intentions or in excess of donor and fund restrictions."

You may review the entire letter by clicking on the link here:

<https://mailchi.mp/orangecatholicfoundation/la-article-response?e=39284421e6>

Last but not least, let us keep each other in prayer, and beg our Triune God to put an end to this virus as soon as possible. Please ask the Blessed Virgin Mother Mary, St. Joseph, St. Cecilia and Holy Men and Women, All Saints of God, to intercede for scientists and doctors to quickly acquire the vaccine against the Covid-19 virus.

As always, together with my fellow priests and deacons, Fr. Nicolaus, Fr. Erialdo, Dcn. Bill, Dcn. Dong and Dcn. Andres, I am deeply grateful to all of you for your devoted support of immeasurable generosity, constant prayer, enthusiastic participation and Christ-like love for our St. Cecilia's faith community.

With the intercessions of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Patroness St. Cecilia, may Almighty God reward and bless each and every one of you and your family abundantly through Jesus Christ Our Savior! May God grant you a very restful Labor Day and grace-filled Autumn!

God loves you and so do I!

With Gratitude in and Peace of Christ,

Fr. Bao

Pastor