April 16, 2020
Thursday in the Octave of Easter

Dear Saint Pius Family and Friends:

I pray that you were able to celebrate Easter in some way with family and friends, even if only virtually. I am so grateful that many of you were able to celebrate the Triduum via livestream with us, from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday. The parish received many positive responses as we continue to be present to all of you. I recognize this is a very difficult time. However, I continue to be edified by the patience, generosity, and good humor being shown by our parishioners.

Many have inquired about the status of the annual parish festival. After consultation with this year’s festival co-chairs, Mary Chacon and Brian Tupper, as well as past co-chairs, Mike Sweeney, Mike Descalso, and the festival team, we have concluded that sponsoring a festival at this time would not be prudent and practical. In addition to not being certain as to when the Shelter In Place Order of the San Mateo County Health Department will be lifted, I personally could not ask people to expend time and energy when individuals and families have been impacted by this pandemic. There will need to be a time of healing and rebuilding and I do not want to take away from that.

As you know, our festival is the premier social gathering of our community each year; it is a homecoming for many and an opportunity to celebrate our amazing family. Not being able to come together this year for the festival weighs heavily upon me. The plan is to come together in the fall for a Mass of Thanksgiving and a big bash to bring together our parish and school families. I will keep you posted on developments.

The festival is also a major financial resource for our parish programs and ministries. Over the past two years, the profit margin has continued to grow. Last year, we netted over $125,000. The loss of this revenue, as well as a significant drop in Sunday collections to this point, is going to impact our parish budget significantly. I am asking that each family in the parish donate $100 to a “Festival Fund” to help us make up the lost revenue. For your convenience, you may donate to this fund online at pius.org/give. I will contribute $500 myself and anyone who matches or exceeds this amount will be invited to a reception at the Priests’ House. If your employer offers a nonprofit matching gift program, please include St. Pius Church as your chosen nonprofit. Contact judy@pius.org for our 501(c)(3) information.

We are living in unprecedented times but also times of grace, hope and possibility. As a Catholic community, we are faith-filled and resilient. We will pass through this dark valley stronger and more vibrant. I want to express my gratitude for your commitment and generosity and eagerly await when we are together again soon!

In Christ,


Father Thomas V. Martin
Pastor