

Rev. Matthew B. Wetsel

Holy Trinity Church
205 Glebe St
Johnstown, NY 12095
518 762 2011, extension 2
Matthew.Wetsel@rcda.org

Church of the Holy Spirit
153 S. Main Street
Gloversville, NY 12078

August 10th 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Trinity and Holy Spirit

Greetings to you and to your loved ones! I hope that this finds you well and blessed by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

I am writing to you today to let you know that your parish offices and community are continuing to work hard behind the scenes as well as in person in order for us to continue to share the good news of our risen Lord.

If you have had the opportunity to attend any of our weekend liturgies since the re-opening of our parish churches the weekend of June 6th & 7th, you will notice that there are some changes to how we gather for worship. Paper signs serve as pew dividers throughout the churches to maintain the six feet of distance requirement between individuals. We wear masks during the liturgies that are only briefly removed in order to consume the Eucharist after receiving it from the priest. We use hand sanitizer throughout the church and avoid gathering in tight circles to prevent the possible transmission of oral droplets in close proximity. The churches are also cleaned regularly after each Mass by scheduled volunteers and those who attend. In short, through a commitment to shared values and communal concern, we have been able to gather to celebrate the Eucharist continuously for over two months as a community. I am grateful to everyone who has made this possible.

For those who are unable to attend Mass for the time being, I am still recording Mass each week that can be viewed on YouTube. If you wish to watch the Masses on your desktop, you can go to the homepage of either parish (Holy Spirit: <https://holyspirit12078.org/> or Holy Trinity: <http://parishes.rcda.org/HolyTrinityJohnstown/>) and click on the link for my YouTube page. Likewise, you can also search “Matt Wetsel” in the YouTube app on your mobile phone or smart device for my page that includes all of the Masses that I have recorded since the beginning of the shut down. As of the writing of this letter, Sunday Mass is also still broadcast on WENT 1340 AM on Sundays at 9:30 am.

Your parish faith formation offices are also working together with me to begin the process of offering sessions for the fall. As you may know by now, the state governor has permitted schools to re-open this September (pending any further spikes in COVID-19 infections). Likewise, the diocesan office for faith formation is permitting parishes to have in person classes for the time being this upcoming academic year (though they will likely be complemented by either virtual classes and/or take home materials). Our coordinators for faith formation, Ann Simonson and Cindy Kollar, will be meeting with me again soon as well as with our catechists to discuss a plan to implement faith formation this autumn. While there will be quite a few hurdles to jump through (masks, cleaning, limited class size, no large group presentations, etc), we are looking forward to continuing our faith journeys together. On a positive note, we are looking forward to celebrating First Holy Eucharist with our young people the first weekend of October at both parishes (this will be a make-up for the groups that were originally scheduled to receive first communion this past spring). More information on that will be shared with our families in the weeks to come.

While we are discussing some, but not all, of the events that are taking place at your parishes in this letter (this would be a rather lengthy document if I attempted to do that!), I am also prayerfully asking for your continued fiscal support for our churches. Please allow me to share my profound thanks to all of you who have given so generously to our parishes this year, especially since we have not been able to gather together and contribute as we normally would with weekend collections. It is most appreciated. I am especially cognizant of what a

sacrifice it is for so many people during a time when many have lost their employment or have had to rely on loans to pay their normal bills.

Your offertory gifts to our parishes have helped us maintain payroll during this challenging time for our staffs as well as allowed us to stay in contact to provide Mass intentions, faith formation Zoom sessions, bury our beloved deceased with dignity in our parish cemeteries, and so much more.

The addresses for the parish offices are as follows:

Holy Trinity Church
207 Glebe St, Johnstown, NY 12095

and

Church of the Holy Spirit
153 S. Main Street, Gloversville, NY 12078.

As a reminder, we will be resuming our normal Mass schedule the weekend of September 5th and 6th. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday Vigil at Holy Spirit (4 pm), Sunday at 8 am and 10 am (Holy Trinity) and 11:30 am (Holy Spirit). Weekday Masses are offered Tuesday & Wednesday at Holy Trinity (8:30 am) and Thursday & Friday at Holy Spirit (8:30 am).

First Saturday Masses are offered at alternating sites (please check the bulletin for details) with confessions following. Confessions are still offered each week (unless otherwise noted) on Saturday afternoons from 2:15 pm – 3:45 pm.

Please join us if you are healthy enough to do so safely.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we move forward together.

God Bless,

Fr. Matt Wetsel

