

A Note from Fr. Keith, Our Pastor

Thank you for the warm welcome many of you extended to me last weekend. I want to thank the parishioners and staff who helped to organize and facilitate the receptions after each Mass. Your generosity and graciousness incarnated a real experience of being invited into a community.

I made the same three introductory remarks at all the Masses. First, as Fr. David taught me, I will not compare Saint James to any of my previous parishes, and I ask for you to not compare me to any of your previous pastors. Second, as I promised to the bishop at my ordination, I promise the same to all of you: I will preach and teach the faith according to Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium. Third, I invite you to join our parish efforts on the three-year National Eucharistic Revival.

On the subject of mission statements, in a careful reading of the bulletin, you may have noticed a mention of the National Eucharistic Revival. Last week, I asked you to familiarize yourself with this national effort. Again, this will be our primary focus in the next three years to encourage Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, revive belief in the True Presence, and restore a more reverent celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. More information can be found at this website: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

Already, we restored the practice of offering daily Mass on Friday during the week. This weekend, as you will notice in our Church, we removed the socially distant seating in the pews. Restoring open seating resumes unity of worship among the assembly during Mass. Additionally, it will help people feel more welcome and connected as a community united in our communion with God. In keeping with the revised CDC guidelines, we removed the hand sanitizer and restored the stools for Holy Water. This restores our ancient devotion of reminding ourselves of baptism when entering the Church by making the Sign of the Cross.

Pray for our parish to grow in belief, adoration, and reverence for the Most Blessed Sacrament.