



OUR LADY OF THE ROCKIES ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

May 26, 2020, The Memorial of St. Philip Neri

"For the Almighty has beheld the humility of His handmaiden, and behold all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name" Lk 1:48-9

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On April 8th, I provided a letter on our parish website concerning the Dedication Mass of the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rockies. At that time, the decision was made to postpone the Dedication Mass on May 1st to a more opportune occasion.

On May 1st, the Bishops of Canada consecrated their respective dioceses and our country to the care of Mary, Mother of the Church. As this Marian month of May comes to a conclusion, Our Bishop, the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, has made the decision to celebrate the Dedication Mass of the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Rockies on Saturday, May 30th at 11:00am.

As May 30th this year occurs on the vigil of the Solemnity of Pentecost, when Our Lady, in the midst of the Apostles, was filled with the consoling power of the Holy Spirit, a special day has been provided for when the Dedication of the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rockies will take place.

This date will allow for the Dedication Mass to bring this special Marian month of May, in the midst of a pandemic, to a joyous conclusion. This date will also inaugurate the invitation of the faithful of our parish and Diocese to slowly begin visiting and making pilgrimages of faith to our Diocesan Shrine, knowing that the radiant presence of the Holy Spirit will overshadow this Dedication and all in the future who will come seeking the consolation and support of God.

In addition, this Dedication Mass will allow us to thank Mary as Mother of the Church for the gift of this new Shrine Church, to ask for her continual intercession to bring this worldwide pandemic to an end and serve as an anticipated Mass for the eventual resumption of public Masses in the Diocese of Calgary as early as June 1st.

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Due to the current restrictions to ensure public health and safety for the number of attendees at public religious celebrations, the Dedication Mass will be limited to a small number of clergy, laity, seminarians and religious sisters. Under these circumstances and to avoid signs of favouritism, the original invitees to the previously scheduled Dedication Mass of May 1st will not be in personal attendance.

However, this celebration will be live-streamed so that all the faithful of Our Lady of the Rockies Parish, the Diocese of Calgary and around the world will have an equal opportunity to participate in this historic celebration. Further information about how you can participate in this celebration via live stream will be provided on our parish website and the Diocese of Calgary website when available.

It was with great joy that our Bishop announced on May 26th the resumption of public Masses as early as June 1st. Our parish is beginning the process of obtaining the necessary volunteers, cleaning supplies and implementation of the protocols mandated by the Diocese of Calgary for the celebration of the Holy Mass at the Shrine Church. A reminder that Masses will be limited to 50 participants. Please check our website to learn when public Masses will begin at the Shrine Church and scheduled visits can occur. Due to some un-anticipated final construction, Mass will be offered on Monday June 1st (time to be announced) but then the Shrine Church will be closed to the general public until Friday June 5th.

I appreciate that this news will come as a disappointment to many who had hoped to attend the Dedication Mass. However, since it is necessary for the Shrine Church to be formally dedicated by our Bishop for the celebration of the Holy Mass, private and public times of prayer, baptisms, weddings, funerals and other liturgical celebrations, in addition to welcoming people to see the beautiful church we have built, it became the priority of having the Dedication Mass occur at the conclusion of May.

I thank you for your understanding in what was a difficult but necessary decision to have the Dedication Mass on May 30th. May we pray that the sacrifices many make in this regard will bear fruit in many hearts, and that the Dedication of the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rockies will serve as a beacon of hope and trust that God is with us and our Holy Mother is keeping us safe under the mantle of her maternal protection.

I remain yours in Jesus through Mary, Fr. Nathan Siray

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