



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As a Catholic Philadelphian and Jersey Shore vacationer, I have always associated August 15th with “putting my feet in the ocean”. Some of you know what that means. For those who don’t, the Solemnity of the Mary’s Assumption in this neck of the woods has celebrated the Wedding of the Sea. The Day when the Bishop of Camden, NJ gets into a lifeguard boat, throws a wreath into the ocean and blesses the “sea” as crowds of the faithful dip their feet into the salty waters. It’s quite the site, up and down the Camden coast of the Jersey Shore. A reminder of the wedding between heaven and earth, sea and land, a unity made visible in the

Ascension of Christ and Assumption of Mary, body and soul into heaven.

On a far more mundane level, August 15 is a reminder that summer is ending. And as we prepare to dip our feet back into school, work and the norm, this weekend’s feast can give us hope! For despite all the uncertainties, of the land and the sea, we step and walk into the future with the Lord Jesus who conquers both! We step and walk with one another on a mission of Love. As we experience this mid-August transition, be sure of my prayers this week. Let us pray for one another.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ REGARDING SAFETY AS MASS OBLIGATION RESUMES

“Ensuring the health and welfare of those entrusted to the pastoral and temporal care of our Church, especially as we navigate a global pandemic, is a paramount priority as the Archbishop of Philadelphia. During this time of acute hardship and struggle, I have worked in conjunction with the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania and the senior administration of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to implement best practices intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect those most vulnerable.

As the COVID-19 landscape evolved, we continuously re-evaluated those efforts in consultation with public health officials and based on data.

As your Shepherd, I am called to provide the Eucharist in a safe environment. To that end, I ask that you prioritize your own health and the health of your neighbors and faith communities.

As previously announced, the Catholic Bishops of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are reinstating the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days beginning on Sunday, August 15, 2021. However, by longstanding Church law, this obligation does not apply to those who are

- sick
- have a serious health risk
- live in a household with those at risk
- serve as primary caregivers to those at risk
- have serious anxiety or concerns about being in a large group setting due to COVID-19
- are unable to attend Mass in person

As an act of charity, all who are able should become fully vaccinated. Anyone who believes they might have COVID-19 or one of its variants should seek testing and take every precaution for the preservation of public health. As a people of hope, let us pray for an end to this health crisis.”

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez

Archbishop of Philadelphia