



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Bishop

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December 17, 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father:

News of the rollout of the coronavirus vaccine brings hope to our country and to our Church. While the majority of Americans may not be able to receive the vaccine until later in 2021, knowing there are options gives us a reason to be optimistic.

Aware that the coronavirus will be with us when Lent begins on February 17, 2021, we still need to be vigilant and follow the protocols for liturgical celebrations. Therefore, I have decided that for the First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021, we will not be celebrating a large diocesan Rite of Election at the Cathedral of St. Jude, as in past years.

However, pursuant to *RCIA* nos. 12 and 121, I delegate permission to all pastors or parochial administrators to preside in my place at the Rite of Election, to be held within their individual parishes and missions. This important rite may be celebrated in the parish by following the ritual found in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (see PART I, Second Step: Election or Enrollment of Names, nos. 118-163). This delegation to pastors and parochial administrators is only for 2021.

I have asked the Office of Worship to prepare materials for parishes that will be used if you have catechumens (i.e. the unbaptized) in the initiation process who may be discerning readiness to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the 2021 Easter Vigil. These materials will be forthcoming in January of 2021.

With prayers for you and those you serve during the Advent season and always, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg