

Return to Mass Letter – May 2020

Dear Parishioners of Mother of Perpetual Help Congregation,

Archbishop ListECKI wrote to us last week reminding us that for Catholics, the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our spiritual lives. Being deprived of the public celebration of the Mass has been a tremendous hardship for both our people and our priests. As a Sacramental Church, the reception of Communion is an integral part of our faith and worship. We recognize how truly lost and empty we are without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and without the reception of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist.

Now we look ahead to the time we return to celebrating Mass with our parish communities. We want to do this in a reasonable and responsible way, with the safety of our people and respect for our sacramental life our top priorities. To that end, the Archdiocese is issuing these directives, to aid our parishes in the resumption of public Mass and demonstrate our commitment to protecting communities. We will begin our return to Mass on the weekend of May 30-31, 2020.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PARISHES

- 1) Those who are at risk, especially seniors and those who have respiratory illness should remain at home. Please consider wearing a protective mask when you come to Mass for greater protection.
MASS WILL CONTINUE TO BE BROADCAST WEEKLY VIA TELEVISION AND COMPUTER FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

- 2) Attendance at each individual Mass is limited to no more than 25 percent of our church’s occupancy.
To accommodate more people, we will temporarily add a 4PM Mass at 106th St.

Occupancy at the 106th site is 115 - 4pm SATURDAY, 8am and 11am Sunday

Occupancy at the 116th site is 115 - 4 pm SATURDAY, 9:30 am Sunday

Occupancy at the 92nd site is 175 - 7pm SUNDAY EVENING

These numbers allow for a small number of walk-ins.

EACH WEEK THAT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY OF THE SITES
YOU MUST CALL THE PARISH OFFICE at (414) 453-5192 AND
REGISTER WITH THE SECRETARY MONDAY THRU THURSDAY FROM 9am UNTIL 2pm.

We fully understand that this is an imposition, but it is only temporary. We want to give everyone wishing to attend mass the opportunity to do so. Please be as flexible as you can if the mass time you wish to attend is filled when you call in.

- 3) Seating areas will be clearly marked, as well as the number of occupants allowed per pew. A minimum of six feet between persons must be observed. A minimum of using every other pew should be followed. Family members living in the SAME HOUSEHOLD may be seated together observing the minimum space between them.
- 4) Individuals will be ushered in and out of church (you must be seated as soon as you arrive and leave the building immediately as you are ushered out). Please do not gather in any of the vestibule areas, the church, or parking lots before or after Mass.
- 5) WHEN IT IS TIME TO COME FORWARD, COMMUNION MAY ONLY BE RECEIVED IN THE HAND AND WE WILL OBSERVE THE APPROPRIATE DISTANCE (6 Feet) BETWEEN ALL MEMBERS IN LINE. COMMUNION FROM THE CUP IS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
- 6) You may resume bringing your monthly envelopes to church and place them in the designated containers. Collection baskets are not to be passed person-to-person.
- 7) Hand sanitizer will be available for your use as you enter the church. No physical contact between persons is allowed before or after Mass and during the sign of Peace.
- 8) The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is dispensed through Sunday, July 5 and there is no pre-determined timeline for how long restrictions will be in place.
- 9) Weekday masses will resume when we receive the permission of the Archdiocese.

There is a lot of information for us to digest. Please know that these guidelines have been developed by the Archdiocese in conjunction with the best information we have available to us at this time.

Once again, we want to personally thank all of you who have been so faithful in your prayers and support of the Parish. Please continue to support each other and to thank God that we have been given a chance to begin to return to Mass together.

This has been a challenging time for so many people, especially those who have suffered directly through the virus. Pentecost is a great time to begin to return together, even with these limitations, as it calls us to reflect on our beginnings. We begin again, a little different than when we were last together, but with the same Faith, with hope renewed and in a spirit of loving charity.

Continue to be safe and do your best to care for yourselves and for one another as we move ahead with our return to Church.

Faithfully, in Jesus’ name,

Fr. Jeff and Fr. Thomas