

Greetings,

We have great news. We will soon be able to open our churches for public worship. **May 20, 2020** is the date set by the governor and approved by our bishop to be the day we will begin mass again. We will have to follow certain restrictions. Please read this full letter for it contains the information we need for the safety not only of ourselves but for everyone.

It is with great joy that I can welcome you back to church. We all know that things are different and that will apply to our gatherings as well. Please be patient with one another and the staff this is new to all of us. Let us take this opportunity to gather at the table of the Lord in whatever way we can. Please do not allow the restrictions of the pandemic steal from us the joy of the Love of God that is found in our gathering and in the Holy Eucharist.

### New Sunday Mass Times

Saturday: 4:00pm    Sunday: 7:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
1:30 PM  
5:30 PM

The new schedule is to allow us to get the church sanitized before the next mass.



**Wear a  
Cloth  
Face  
Covering**

Everyone, who is over two years old, is asked to wear a cloth face covering through out the service and only pull it down when receiving Communion.

Cloth face coverings should cover your nose and your mouth and fit snugly but comfortably against the side of your face. **They must be laundered regularly.**

## NO OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS

The Bishop has extended until further notice the dispensation from the Sunday Obligation. No one is required to attend Mass until further notice.

Because there is no Obligation to attend mass on Sunday you may want to consider attending mass during the week to help with social distancing on Sunday.

## Who should **WORSHIP** from Home?

1. The Elderly and those at risk because of ongoing health issues.
2. Those who are not feeling well or have been recently exposed to the virus
3. Those who are the primary caregiver of someone who is at risk.
4. Individuals who are uncomfortable or children who are not mature enough to wear a mask for the entire liturgy.



## Social Distancing

We will need to stay six (6) feet away from one another except for family groups.

- Because of social distancing we will only be able to accommodate 33% of capacity or 170 people.
- We will have pews marked to be used and pews that must be left empty.
- We will have ushers to help you be seated.
- The Parish Hall will be set up for overflow and the mass will be live-streamed and a minister will bring communion.
- We will have ushers to coordinate the communion line and the dismissal.
- During communion and dismissal please remember to stay six feet apart from one another
- We ask that you do not linger after mass and talk but that you exit the church and go directly to your car.
- Only one person in the bathroom at a time. We will be unable to sanitize the bathroom after each use so use with caution.

Wash  
Regularly

For at least  
20 seconds

Thoroughly!



We are asked to follow all of these procedures not just because of state officials or political reasons. Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God and our neighbor. By following these procedures we are not only taking care of ourselves and those we love but also the perfect stranger we may pass in Wal-Mart. It is an important time to think about the good of our neighbor and our responsibility to them. We have seen this virus spread across the earth and we must do all we can to limit its effects by following a few restrictions.

### What will the celebration of Mass look like?

- Six feet of physical distancing will need to be maintained between all of the faithful except for those who live in the same home.
- Everyone over the age of 2 should wear a cloth facial covering.
- The Presider will wear a cloth facial covering while in procession and during the distribution of Holy Communion. At all other times, he will maintain a distance of six feet from other ministers.
- The sign of peace will be given in a non-physical manner such as with a bow of the head.
- Holding hands during the Our Father should be done only by those who live in the same house.
- There will be no communal singing. The cantor and the musician will provide the music.
- The collection basket will not be passed but will be kept on a stand near the doors when you exit.
- Holy water fonts will remain empty.
- At the conclusion of Mass, people will depart by pews to avoid a bottleneck at the doors.
- There should be no gatherings either before or after Mass.

### How will we receive Holy Communion?

- Six feet of distance must be maintained in the Communion procession.
- The cloth facial covering should be worn while in procession and removed only long enough for you to place Holy Communion in your mouth.
- The practice of the faithful receiving Holy Communion on the tongue is suspended.
- The practice of the faithful receiving the Precious Blood is suspended.
- You will be asked to stop at the first pew and bow your head, the minister will say the "Body of Christ and you will respond, "Amen" and then step to the minister and receive on your hand.

### What other precautions are being taken?

- The worship space and high traffic areas will be cleansed and sanitized after each Mass.
- Hymnals and missalettes are removed from the pews.
- Bathrooms are limited to one person at a time, they will only be cleansed after each Mass.