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Date: May 15, 2020

Phase 1 of Reopening Parishes during the COVID-19 Emergency

Last week the Provincial Health Officer announced that restrictions recommended to deal with the pandemic will begin to be eased from the middle of May. In light of this development, and with guidelines prepared by a working group of scientists at the request of the US bishops, the following practices should be followed:

- Sunday and weekday Mass will be opened to the public after May18, but the limit of 50 persons is still in force until further notice. Members of the same household may sit together, but appropriate physical distancing in the pews from everyone else has to be maintained.
- Since the limit on the number of persons who may gather remains in effect, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues in the diocese;
- 3. Holy water will not be available at the church entrance. Hand sanitizer should be available:
- 4. Commonly touched areas will be regularly disinfected.
- 5. Collection baskets should not be passed from hand to hand; either use baskets with long handles or place a basket at a central point;
- 6. The offertory procession should be omitted;
- 7. The Sign of Peace is optional (cf. GIRM 154; Redemptionis Sacramentum, 71); if used, it should be a simple bow, not a handshake;
- 8. Communicants should maintain the <u>recommended distance</u> from each other as they walk in procession. They may receive either on the tongue or in the hand;
- 9. Holy Communion from the chalice will not be offered to the congregation.
- 10. Before the communion the priest will say generally for all, "The Body of Christ" and all of you have to say the response "Amen" from your pews at that moment and not while receiving communion.
- 11. The choir members have to be less in numbers and need to keep social distancing carefully.
- 12. The sacrament of confession will be given in St. Benedict room on Saturday at 6.30 PM-7.00 PM and social distancing has to be followed. Rest of the days by appointments with the priest.

Parishioners are reminded to observe proper basic hygiene, e.g., regular handwashing and staying away from the church when experiencing symptoms or if they have underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk.

Dear brothers and sisters, greetings to you.

We are now opening the church for public but still following the guidelines of the government. All the above instructions have to be followed and maintained in our church.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters in order to keep the limit of 50 persons all have to register online through <u>CanadaHelps</u> to attend mass in church on weekends. Registration can be done through our Parish website or you may contact the parish office for registration from 9.00 AM-1.00 PM. And on weekdays you may have to register your contact information at the entrance of the church. i.e. foyer.

The Mass timings will be as follows:

Weekdays

Tuesday 12.00 PM (at the church, not in seniors' home)

Wednesday 7.00 PM Thursday 12.00 PM

Friday 12.00 PM (Except First Friday- 7.00 PM)

Weekends

Saturday 7.30 PM

Sunday 9.00 AM & 11.00 AM

Through the intercession our Lady of Aparecida, God bless you.

Father Aruldhas Lucas SAC