



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

801 Main St., PO Box 326

Vestal, NY 13851-0326

607.748.8287

May 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for the cooperation, support and generosity extended by so many, it has been astounding and truly heart-touching, (at a distance of course). Our last weekend together was March 14-15. Reports of our opening for Pentecost weekend, May 30-31 are misleading. Only 10 people are allowed in the building which has been the case for funerals and weddings throughout this period. The ten people will be the Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Musician, Tech Crew, and myself. However, we will be able to distribute Communion. Opening the church for congregants will be delayed until a future date and procedures for that date will be mailed once known.

Those who are ill, symptomatic, and vulnerable are asked to remain at home, note:

- **The dispensation from obligation continues, especially for those people who at high risk of contracting COVID-19 due to:**
 - **Over 65**
 - **Chronic diseases related to heart or lungs**
 - **Immune deficiency due to disease or cancer treatments**
 - **Diabetes**

PHASE 2: May 30-31

- **Mass will be on Facebook Live, as it has been, from the chapel. You are invited to come to the parking lots and view the Mass on your devices. **Our Wi-Fi is Emerald Guest, the password; church13850.****
- **Our Mass schedule will be 5:15 pm Saturdays, 8:30 & 11 am Sundays.**
- **Masks are to be worn. Masks and hand sanitizer are the responsibility of the attendee.**
- **At Communion, 2-4 Eucharistic Ministers will come outside and go car to car.**
 - **Please sanitize hand before and after receiving.**
 - **Please, do not get of your car until the Eucharistic Minister signals you are next, we need to continue practicing social distancing. We will zig-zag, so cars next to one another do not empty at the same time.**
 - **Please use the parking lot at the main doors of the Church only, we are not allowed to fill all our parking.**
 - **We will only distribute the Host. Please, receive in the hand only! Eucharistic Ministers will need to stop and sanitize if they make skin to skin contact.**
 - **If necessary, I will distribute to people on the tongue with the use of tongs **after** Mass.**

- Once you receive return to inside your car immediately.
- While people are receiving Communion from their cars, music will continue.
- This is new for all of us, so please be patient, this may take a while.
- The Mass is concluded with the Recessional Hymn and then you leave the parking lot

OTHER ASPECTS TO OPENING

- **Daily Masses** will resume in the Church not the chapel so we can distance, **Monday, June 8** (Monday – Wednesday, 7:30 am and Saturday. 9:00 am).
 - Only ten people are allowed.
 - Therefore, people may attend once a week. Participants must register for the day they will attend, by calling the office or e-mailing me, jpdonovan@syrdio.org. Not everyone will get their first choice.
 - There will be no devotional prayers, or Adoration.
- **Confessions** will resume **June 6** at 4 pm, again masks are to be worn and you have the choice of behind the screen or mask to mask.
 - Please distance yourself from others
 - No more than ten people can be in the church
- We will not be able to have meals, such as Funeral Lunches, Mary Meals and Alpha & Beta until further notice. No other programs will take place on-site, other than the Pantry.
- **The Parish Office** will re-open on **Monday, June 1**. Masks must be worn if you enter the buildings.
- **Palms and Bulletins will not be available at this time.**
- **By entering the property and the buildings, you assume all risk.**

We have not been able to give Deacon Dale his well-earned and deserved retirement send off and hope we will be able to soon. Our Parish Picnic scheduled for July 26 is postponed until the Fall when we will have some type of social, since we are not having the Super Raffle as previously announced. I had hoped that we could have a hospitality weekend our first weekend back, but that will be postponed to a later date as well.

As we have learned in these last two months, things change quickly, and I am sure more changes are to come. Thus, these are the written directions, for now. You may wish to keep them on hand.

My apologies for such a long letter, but there is nothing I would omit, and I probably forgot a few things. I am so pleased we will be together soon! Our staff is wonderful and have gone above and beyond their responsibilities to keep our parish on solid ground. Please be sure to thank them. In these weeks of separation, I have truly experienced the depth of generosity, sincerity, and quality of this tremendous Parish! Thank you!

Sincerely,

