

May 13, 2020

Parishioners of St. Joseph,

I know many of you are ready to get back to receiving the sacraments—especially the Eucharist. The current plan is to restart on May 20th. As it is a weekday, we will resume our regular daily mass schedule with mass that Wednesday at 7:00 am. Our weekend mass schedule will continue to stay the same as well—the same as the pre-corona virus schedule. We will evaluate those first few weekends and adjust accordingly. I would like to highlight a few changes once we return:

-As we are required to maintain social distancing, some pews will be designated as unavailable for seating. Pews available for seating will be marked to help facilitate those requirements. Families (household units) can sit together without distancing.

-We are not to exceed 33 percent of the total occupancy of the church. This means we will be limited to around 100-120 people per mass. We plan to adjust how this is accomplished after the first few weekends. This means our schedule could change but not until we get a better idea of attendance.

-All are asked to wear masks. During communion, as you bow before receiving communion, you can lower your mask, receive communion, and then return your mask.

-We will have communion (receive by hand only) but no precious blood.

-There will not be a sign of peace, and there can be no contact during the Our Father.

-Music will be limited or omitted at most masses.

-There will be no hymnals, worship aids, or bulletins. We are asked to eliminate anything that can carry the virus. If you would like to follow along with the mass or readings, please come prepared before mass begins. Phones are perfectly acceptable. If you would like a bulletin, please call the office and give them your email address and one will be sent to you. You can always read the bulletin by viewing it from our website.

-We will not ask for the help of sacristans, Eucharistic ministers, or altar servers although we will still need lectors. What we will need are: Ushers, greeters, gatekeepers, and/or volunteers to hold doors open before and after mass to help eliminate any contact with those doors. Hand sanitizer will be available.

-We will do the collection much like we do for holy days. Baskets will be placed in the front of the church on either side of the pews. Envelopes can be dropped into those baskets anytime, especially during communion.

-The obligation to go to mass on Sundays will continue to be lifted so you are not obligated to attend; and, we would encourage those that can to go during the week instead of on Sunday.

-As of today we do not have a functioning bathroom. All are currently under construction. We may or may not have some portable bathrooms available. This is temporary of course, but please be prepared.

Peace,

Fr. Ryan