Restoration of Weekend Masses
Norwich Diocese

Restoration of Weekend Masses:

On Saturday July 4 Weekend Masses will be resumed. The usual Mass schedule will be restarted:

Weekday Mass at 8.30 AM:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Essex.
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at St. Joseph’s Church, Chester.

Weekend Mass:
Saturday 4 PM and Sunday 10 AM at St. Joseph’s Church, Chester.
Saturday 5.30 PM and Sunday 8.30 AM and 12 PM at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Essex.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass will remain dispensed until further notice.

Those who are considered ‘high risk’ due to age or underlying health conditions are encouraged to stay home.

One Weekend Mass will continue to be live-streamed for those who are unable to attend.

The entrance and recessional processions will be suspended.

The use of collection baskets will be discontinued until further notice. In place of the use of the collection basket a central depository at the entrance(s) to the church will be placed.
The *offertory procession* with the bread and wine will be *discontinued* until further notice.

**Clean Environment:**

As for ‘social distancing’ seating must provide for 6 feet of free distance in all directions between individuals. So, some pews are closed off and seats marked.

**St. Joseph’s Church:**

73 *seats* per Mass are available with social distancing.

**Our Lady of Sorrows Church:**

83 *seats* are available per Mass with social distancing. In the church 54 seats are marked. In Murtha Hall 36 chairs are arranged. Bishop has granted permission to use Murtha Hall for participation of the Mass.

Members of a *household* or those who come to church in the *same vehicle* are not required to social distance from each other.

*Hymnals* and other *books* have been removed.

*Doors* will be propped open and *windows* opened while the building is occupied. On very hot and humid days *air-condition* will be on and doors and windows will be closed.

*Hand sanitizer* is available near building entrances.

*Face mask* that cover both nose and mouth are required of all attending public worship.

The use of altar servers, lectors, ushers, and greeters will be *limited.*
The faithful may not be able to attend the Mass they wish if the church reaches its capacity.

Holy Communion:

*Proper disposition* is necessary for the reception of Holy Communion.

- Our attendance is first and foremost for the worship of Almighty God. The faithful are not required to receive Holy Communion every time they attend Mass.
- All who present themselves for Holy Communion should be properly prepared to receive.
- This preparation involves a careful examination of conscience and should regularly involve the Sacrament of Penance.

*Only priests or deacons* should distribute Holy Communion. A face mask is required while distributing Holy Communion.

The use of extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion will be discontinued until further notice.

There is no sterile way to distribute and receive Holy Communion.

The faithful are encouraged to receive communion in the hand.

The use of gloves while handling the Blessed Sacrament is forbidden.

The distribution of Holy Communion will take place after Mass has concluded. After the final blessing those who do not receive Holy Communion will leave the church in silence. Please avoid overcrowding at the doors of the church.
Those who receive Holy Communion will be asked to remain standing or kneeling *in their own places*. Priest or deacon will come to the place of the recipient and distribute Holy communion.

The faithful should remove their *face coverings* just as they are about to receive Holy Communion, and immediately replace their face covering once Holy Communion is received.

The faithful will depart after making a brief *prayer of thanksgiving*. 