



Saint Bernard Catholic Community

Sharing our GIFTS since 1963

Hello St. Bernard Family!

Hopefully you may have heard from Archbishop Kurtz that we can resume Masses beginning on May 20th. Our first daily Mass is set for Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm assuming that all stays on track. As with each of our daily Masses, those who wish are encouraged to pray the Rosary in Church before or after Mass, as is our custom here. Our first weekend Masses will be Saturday, May 23 at 4:00 pm and Sunday, May 24 at 11:00 am. The 8:30 am Mass will continue to be live-streamed and will NOT be open to regular attendance by parishioners.

We will have the 4 pm Saturday and 11 am Sunday Masses in the gym, and our livestreamed and daily Masses in our Church. We are planning to make these Masses shorter (less than forty-five minutes) as a concern for your safety. Please take your temperature before you come to Mass. If your temperature is above normal (more than 100 degrees) please stay home. Also bring a mask to wear during Mass. We will follow social distancing guidelines, wear masks, take temperatures, and hand-sanitize at the door. Some masks will be available for your use at the doors, if you do not have one of your own. At the entrances you'll see collection baskets for your contributions. Or consider following the links on our website to make your pledge online. There will be limited seating and you will be directed where to sit by our hospitality ministers. Communion will be brought to the area where you are seated. And, Communion may be received in your hand only. Please use the rest rooms only if absolutely necessary in order to lessen the labor needed to sanitize these areas between Masses. As you enter the gym please respect the space and your fellow parishioners with a prayerful attitude.

The Archbishop has given dispensation from the obligation of attending Mass. All those who should NOT attend, SHOULD NOT ATTEND! This includes those over the age of 65, those with underlying conditions, those caring for someone with underlying conditions, those who have been around someone who is sick, and those who are currently sick in any way. It also includes anyone who feels in any way uncertain about attending.

As for our Homebound Parishioners....they may or may not want communion brought to them. That question needs to be asked of them! **The Homebound Ministers for this week need to do the asking when you call this weekend.** Please! Find out if they want communion starting next weekend.

All Homebound Ministers need to reply to Denise Meyer at her email dmeyer@stbernardlou.com to let her know if you are not able to take communion to our Homebound Parishioners at this time. Or please call our parish office (502) 239-5178. Please consider taking communion to our Homebound Parishioners if you are willing/able. Let Denise know if you can assist.

Our Nursing Home Ministers will not be employed anytime for the foreseeable future. However, in cases of emergencies, hospitals and nursing homes have given priests permission to bring

the Sacrament of the Sick to those who are suffering or dying. Please call or have the medical institution call the Parish Office if your loved one is in danger of death or is critically ill.

On another note: there may be many others (some of you included) who would like to have Communion brought to them on the weekends for the next few weekends. We need to know who can assist with getting Communion to others. And if you want it brought to you. Just call the Parish office to let us know.

At Masses, we are permitting any family members and close friends or neighbors to take Holy Communion to those left at home. During this time of hardship you will not have to be a commissioned Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion in order to take Communion to those in need. You only need to believe that Holy Communion is what it is, the Real Sacramental Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Prayer cards and pyxes (containers for Holy Communion) will be available at the entrance to the gym for you to take with you to your family member or friend. At Communion time the Communion Minister will bring you Communion, and put a Host(s) in your pyx. Please bring the pyx back sanitized and ready to use for next weekend.

After each Daily and Weekend Mass we will be using recommended cleaning supplies to clean the Church and gym to make it safe for our next use. In order to do this we will need volunteers from each Mass to help clean chairs, door handles, light switches and any other contaminated surfaces. Please be willing to help in this caring ministry of safety.

I will be offering a drive-by communion time. This assumes that Mass is watched on Social Media or on television at some point in the day. The drive-by time is tentatively going to follow the 8:30 am Mass that is live-streamed. I will be outside from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Cars can flow past from Glaser to Tangelo. No one should get out of your cars. Communion will be offered in the hand only. Some of the details of this practice may still need to be worked out. But those who can do this, may lower the need for those who need Communion brought to them.

We know that many of you have family members, co-workers and friends that may need our prayers especially now. Please email those requests to me (cwalker@stbernardlou.com) and I will include their names and your intentions during our daily Masses.

Also, we will be able to celebrate weddings and funerals in Church again after May 20th. We may have to limit the numbers of folks who may normally attend a funeral. And, we will follow the guidelines of social distancing, cleanliness and masking that we will follow at our other Masses. But we can pray together at times of funerals and weddings too. And, please call the Parish Office if you need to plan a funeral or if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Any other parish meetings and gatherings are still suspended until further notice, however.

We are so happy that we can celebrate together again, even in this modified way. Please let us know if there are personal or spiritual needs that we may be help you with. The St. Bernard staff, many parishioners, and I want to assist you if we possibly can. I am praying for you daily, and am honored to be your pastor.

Peace,

Fr. Chuck