

Fr. Bruce explains Covid-related changes announced by Bishop Kagan

With lower numbers of Covid cases in the State, Bishop Kagan is allowing some activities within the church to return to normal. You will be able to hear him share this news on a video that will be posted Monday, February 8, on the diocesan website at bismarckdiocese.com.

As of February 20 and 21 there will no longer be a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. After the 10:30 a.m. Mass on February 14, there will no longer be pew restrictions in the church, which means we will be able to seat people in every pew with more than one family in a pew if needed. Holy Water will again be available in the fonts. Eucharistic ministers may assist with giving holy communion and Mass servers will again be assisting. SCRIP sales will be allowed in the gathering space after the Masses. Some allowances will also be made for serving food at the church.

At present, we will continue to have social distancing in the church dining room during weekend Masses for those who are uncomfortable sitting near others in church. The first four rows in the dining room will be reserved for those who wear masks and want to sit only by others who also wear masks.

Pews will continue to be sanitized after each Mass. Use of face coverings during Mass will remain optional.

For our Faith Formation program, we will continue to monitor what is happening in the schools and adjust accordingly.

Some areas that will not yet change include: 1) No sign of peace during Mass; 2) no Offertory procession with the gifts; 3) no distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass; and 4) confessions will remain behind the screen only.

I am very happy to see some return toward normalcy. One goal of our Parish Council was to move in this direction as soon as it was permissible. May God bless you as we readjust to these changes.

- Fr. Bruce