

19 May 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ignatius of Antioch,

As was announced last week by our diocesan administrator, Fr. Donald Oleksiak, the “re-gathering” phase of the public celebration of liturgy in the Diocese of Cleveland will begin on May 25<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day).

After extensive thought, prayer, and study of the guidelines released by the Diocese of Cleveland concerning “*Publicly Celebrated Mass during the Coronavirus Pandemic*,” the following protocols and directives will be put into place for St. Ignatius of Antioch:

1. Weekday Mass will begin on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be one weekday Mass celebrated at 9:00 AM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
2. The anticipated (vigil) Mass on Saturday at 5:00 PM **will continue to be a non-public “live-stream” liturgy as has been the case since Easter weekend.** The diocese has asked us to take a “both/and” approach in the celebration of Mass on the weekend. We know that many people will not be able to come to Mass for various reasons. We will continue to live-stream the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday for the foreseeable future and it will continue to be archived and on-demand for your viewing on Sunday or anytime during the week. Again, this is a **non-public Mass and the church will not be open for it.**
3. Due to the immense protocols that must be put into place for public worship to happen, St. Ignatius of Antioch will celebrate **one public liturgy on Sunday at 10:00 AM** for the time being – as we approach this in a slow and extremely cautious fashion for the safety and common good of all. The first public weekend Mass will be on **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM.**

For the common good of all, below are the **EXPECTATIONS OF WORSHIPPERS:**

- Those who are sick or symptomatic should **stay home.**
- All parishioners should take their temperature prior to coming to Mass. If you have a temperature of 100.4 or higher (Fahrenheit) you should **stay home.**
- If you are in a high risk category due to age, underlying health conditions, or any other issue that places you at higher risk for COVID-19 or someone that you care for, you should **stay home.**
- Attendance at St. Ignatius will be limited to 50% capacity in addition to multiple pews being roped/taped off for proper social distancing of six feet between persons to take place. Families who live in the same house together or who have been together during the “stay at home” order may sit together. All other persons will be seated with six feet of distance between them. This allows for us to have approximately 110 persons in church, properly social distanced.
- After reaching maximum occupancy of 110 we will not be able to allow further persons into the church, even if they have been in line. At maximum occupancy the Lorain Avenue doors will be secured and closed.
- Parishioners should wash their hands at home before coming to church and use hand sanitizer **before leaving your vehicle and before entering the church building.**
- Physical distancing of a minimum of six feet **in all directions** will be the norm.

- Diocesan guidelines mandate that parishioners enter church through one particular set of doors and exit another. Upon arriving at St. Ignatius of Antioch, parishioners should line up outside of the Lorain Avenue doors – following the social distancing signs on the ground – with 6 feet of distance between you and the other person. The Lorain Avenue doors will not be opened until **9:30 AM on Sunday.**
- Upon arriving through the Lorain Avenue doors you will be asked to use **hand sanitizer.** **Masks are required to enter church. If you do not have a mask, we will provide you with a disposable one.**
- You will be seated in an orderly fashion by an usher or hospitality minister. **You most likely will not be able to sit where you or your family have previously sat in church. Your cooperation with this task is greatly appreciated.**
- **Please follow all directives given prior to the distribution of communion.** When approaching the communion ministers, the communicant is to pull their mask below the chin and present one hand rest on the palm of the other. After responding, “Amen,” the communicant reverently places the Eucharist in his or her mouth and immediately replaces their mask.
- At the conclusion of Mass, dismissal will be in an **orderly fashion.** You will be asked to **wait in your pew** until dismissed by an usher or hospitality minister. When being dismissed, parishioners should go immediately out of the **west parking lot doors – and immediately out to your vehicle.** Keep in mind that six feet of social distancing must be maintained at all times. This will prevent the congregating of persons in church during the dismissal.
- If you require use of the elevator entrance near the West Blvd entrance of the church, please proceed to that entrance and you will be greeted by an usher or hospitality minister; the same applies when leaving/exiting church.
- Your bulletin and/or worship aid should go with you and **not left** in the pew when you leave. Recycling receptacles will be available at the exit for **any and all paper** that you wish to dispose of.
- The offertory procession is suspended for the time being. If you have offertory envelopes or monetary donations to St. Ignatius of Antioch, secured collection boxes will be available at the exiting doors.
- Congregational and choral singing at public liturgies has been **suspended** in the Diocese of Cleveland. Congregational singing in large groups is a **super-spreading event for the coronavirus.** Music will be limited to instrumental music prior to Mass, offertory, communion and postlude. All psalms, acclamations, and orations in the liturgy will be **spoken.**
- Mass will **look, sound, and feel different.**

Again, individuals who are in high-risk categories are strongly encouraged not to attend Mass at this time. Likewise anyone feeling sick or experiencing symptoms should stay home. Do not expect that being in a sacred space will make you immune to the coronavirus or that God will prevent you from contracting the virus at church. **The pandemic is not over. Attending Mass will come with the risk of contracting the coronavirus.**

**The general dispensation from the Sunday and holy day obligation will continue per the bishops of the Ohio Catholic Conference.**

These guidelines have been put into place for your safety, however there is still risk. As we enter the “re-gathering” phase in our parish communities across the Diocese of Cleveland and at St. Ignatius of

Antioch, we ask for your cooperation in all of these directives as we begin welcoming parishioners and community members back into the physical church space. There will be challenges and frustrations. Let's all strive for progress, not perfection. The last thing that anyone wants is to cause the illness or death of their priest or a fellow parishioner, or to contribute to a rebound effect that would cause public worship to be suspended again.

You may also read other helpful information for the faithful across the Diocese of Cleveland online in the **Forward in Christ** web portal:

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/forward-in-christ/worship-guidelines>

Please continue to watch your email and social media accounts in the coming days for more information from St. Ignatius of Antioch as we engage in this process.

In Christ, Our Hope,

Fr. Kevin E. Estabrook  
Pastor

Sister Dianne Piunno, SND  
Pastoral Associate

Jason R. Lewis  
Director of Music