

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, the Administrator of the Diocese of Duluth in communion with bishops from all dioceses in Minnesota gave parishes permission for a broader public celebration of the Holy Mass beginning Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

No one is obliged to attend Mass, as the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues.

Parishes, at the same time, are required to follow strict protocols for sanitation and social distancing and will have to limit attendance to one-third of the seating capacity of the church.

We are not required to offer public celebration of Mass until we are comfortable and confident that we are ready to safely do so.

Following these directions and recommendations, and the fact that it is left up to the individual parish to decide, I want to inform you that, to make sure we meet all requirements both churches are completely safe and personnel ready to fully assist our parishioners. We will resume public Masses on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Accordingly, the first Sunday we will celebrate Mass in our churches will be June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Trinity Sunday, with Saturday Mass at 5:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM at Immaculate Conception in Pine City and Sunday 8:00 AM at St. Joseph's in Beroun.

Weekday Mass schedule will be restored to the previous one: Tuesday at 5:30 PM and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 AM. Mass at Lakeside nursing home, previously celebrated each third Friday of the month will remain suspended and observed at Immaculate Conception church at 8:30 AM.

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be administered at Immaculate Conception church only at the following times: Saturdays 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM and Tuesdays 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM.

Funerals will be celebrated in both churches with a permitted attendance of 1/3 capacity. Funeral receptions will not yet be permitted. Baptisms and other Sacraments will be celebrated in both churches with the same limitations. Church pews and doorways will be sanitized before each Mass. Hymnals, Missalettes and prayer cards will be removed and Holy Water fonts will be empty. Physical exchange of the sign of peace as well as the Communion from the common cup will be suspended. Collection will not be taken during the offertory but collection baskets will be placed at the entrances of the church. The use of masks will be strongly recommended but not required.

Everyone will be informed by ushers about the protocols. I will follow required protocols regarding the celebration of the Holy Mass and the distribution of the Holy Communion.

Again, the important thing to know is that until the crisis passes, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted so no one should feel obligated to come to church. Some might consider following Sunday Mass on television, radio or online and attend Mass and receive Holy Communion on other days of the week.

I would like to use this opportunity and express my gratitude for your continuous support of our parishes both spiritually and financially. Your generosity is always extraordinary but in this time of trial it is humbling to see that your care and love for our church even intensified.

Let us continue to support each other in prayer and always grow closer to Jesus so we will be able to meet the challenges ahead of us.

With prayer and gratitude,

Msgr. Aleksander Suchan – Pastor