



Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

308 E Marsile St † Bourbonnais, IL 60914-1928 † 815-933-8285

June 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great joy that the time is near that we may welcome our parishioners back to Church!

The Leadership Team for Re-opening along with the parish staff have been working expeditiously so that Maternity B.V.M. Church may enact the 'plan for re-opening' as outlined by the Diocese of Joliet in cooperation with the six Dioceses of Illinois.

While the Plan for Re-opening was to be executed in two phases, and while we were originally planning for the first phase, we are now preparing for the second phase. Based on regulations from the State of Illinois and the Diocese of Joliet, we may now begin to prepare to welcome people into the church for mass, prayer, and the sacraments. This is indeed good news! Yet, we must receive this good news knowing that this is still a gradual re-opening and that we will need the cooperation of all to provide for the health and safety of all who enter our church and our buildings.

As we enter into the process of re-opening, things will be different in the weeks or months ahead. While some of you are eager to get back to church, others may prefer to wait longer. Please know that at this time, Bishop Pates has extended the dispensation from the Sunday Obligation. We will continue to make Sunday Mass available online. Come back when you are ready.

In the pages that follow, are specific ways in which Maternity B.V.M. Church intends to carry out this plan. First and foremost, it is important for everyone to understand that our efforts will prioritize the safety and well-being of all while maintaining due respect and reverence for the sacraments and liturgical norms of our faith.

In addition, we appreciate your ongoing support of Maternity BVM Church. You are encouraged to continue with mailing in your envelopes, or online giving. We are unable to take up a Collection during Mass at this time, thus we have placed collection boxes near the main doors of the church for your convenience.

May God grant you His peace during this difficult time and may He manifest His love and presence to you in abundant ways. If you have any questions, please contact:

Fr. Daniel Lydon, C.S.V. Compliance Manager --- 815-933-8285, ext. 113 --- dlydon@mbvm.org

Fr. Jason Nesbit, C.S.V. Pastor --- 815-933-8285, ext. 111 --- jnesbit@mbvm.org

Adored and Loved be Jesus!

Fr. Jason Nesbit, C.S.V.
Pastor

What should I expect during the early weeks of re-opening?

As health and safety of our parishioners are our primary concern, please come back only when you are ready. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days has been lifted and will continue to be lifted until further notice. Mass from Maternity B.V.M. Church will continue to be recorded indefinitely and shared on our Parish Website (www.mbvchurch.org) posted via E-mail, Facebook, and on YouTube, at least until the Sunday obligation is reinstated.

For those who feel they are ready to return, please expect the following changes:

- ✓ Masks must be worn at all times while in Church, covering both the nose and the mouth.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer will be made available and must be used.
- ✓ There will be limits on occupancy and there will be a need to make reservations for periods of prayer in the church or for masses and sacramental celebrations.
- ✓ Available seating will be clearly marked and spatial distancing must still be observed.
- ✓ You will not be able to sit in your familiar spaces, but volunteers will be there to seat you.
- ✓ Aisles of the Church will be marked for one-way movement for communion.
- ✓ Hymnals and missalettes will not be available. We will not be able to retain a 'Lost and Found'.
- ✓ Liturgical practices will be modified, such as only receiving Communion in the Hand, no shaking of the hands, and empty holy water fonts.
- ✓ The church will need to be cleaned and sanitized after each time it is used. Restrooms must also be cleaned and sanitized.

The scheduling of Ushers, Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers, and full Choirs/Ensembles will be temporarily suspended. We will be bringing these liturgical ministers back on an "as needed" basis that complies with the requirements set forth by the Diocese of Joliet. Liturgical ministers will be contacted individually when their ministry resumes.

Church will be re-opened in a controlled manner:

- ❖ Only those who have made a reservation may attend.
 - Those who make a reservation must agree that they:
 - are not ill nor have been around those who are ill.
 - may be subject to a check of temperature.
 - must provide address and telephone number for contact tracing.
 - must agree to wear a mask that covers both mouth and nose, and maintain proper distancing.
 - Those who do not agree to the above will be asked to leave.
- ❖ Those who attend prayer, Mass, or other sacramental celebrations:
 - must arrive at least 15 minutes before any liturgy or prayer, but no sooner than 30 minutes prior to the start of the liturgy or prayer.
 - will only be allowed enter and exit through marked doorways.
 - will need to observe 6 foot spacial distancing at all times. (Look for marks on the ground outside and on the floor inside.)
 - will need to wait patiently to be checked in by the Hospitality Minister.
 - will wait for Hospitality Minister to direct you to pews with markings indicating where to sit.
 - must wear a mask at all times, except when receiving Communion, and use hand sanitizer upon entering church and receiving Communion.
 - must leave immediately after being dismissed.

When will we start? How can I attend?

The first few weeks will be a trial period for all volunteers, as well as participants. We ask that you be as patient as you can with all of these changes and protocols, as well as with all our volunteers. Our goal is to keep everyone as safe as we can. We will be starting out slowly, *so that we can make adjustments where needed*. The first week of re-opening will begin with weekday Mass on Tuesday, June 9. We also have the opportunity to perform funerals and baptisms and weddings with spacial distancing. The following dates and times are being offered on a trial basis. *Once we know what the needs of our parishioners are, we will adapt*. At this time, the schedule will be:

❖ **Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Last day for Parking-lot Adoration**

This will be our **last offering** of adoration from the parking lot of the school near the window of the school library. This has been popular for many parishioners.

❖ **Tuesday, June 9 & Thursday, June 11 - 7:30 am weekday Mass**

We will begin to take reservations for these Masses. No other Masses will be available during this first week. We will be able to take up to 75 reservations for each Mass. Attendees must observe all protocols described on the previous page. The doors of the church will be unlocked 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass. Attendees will not be able to enter the church before that time. We also ask that attendees do not arrive later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the liturgy.

❖ **Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm - Private Prayer/Adoration**

The Church will hold up to 75 parishioners who make reservations to do so. Once your reservation is made, you are welcome to enter and exit at any time during that hour. You do not need to stay for the entire hour, but you are certainly welcome to do so. You will need to practice spatial distancing at all times and follow the arrows on the floors, as well as the signs on the doors. Doors will be unlocked 5 minutes before 7:00 p.m.

❖ **Reconciliation by appointment only, beginning Saturday, June 13th**

Father Dan and Father Jason will also offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the PARISH CENTER, by appointment only, as long as spatial distancing requirements are in place. Please make an appointment **FIRST** by calling (815) 933-8285 ext. 111 (Father Jason) or ext. 113 (Father Dan.)

A few other things to know:

- At this point in time we will only be allowing **reservations to be set one week at a time**. This will allow us to make adjustments as we move forward. We ask that you be patient with this process, as we are sure to experience a few bumps in the road that will need to be smoothed out.
- At the start of each week, Monday beginning at noon, you will have the opportunity to make reservations for the upcoming week. This reservation system will be posted on our website. For those of you who do not have internet access, you may call the reservation number from noon until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. That reservation number is (815) 933-8285 ext. 114.
- Only the main center doors of the church will be available for entering the church. Side doors will be unavailable. Please observe all enter and exit signs on doors. Restrooms will be available for use, but will need to be accessed inside by using the inside ramp at the front of the church. Parishioners will not be allowed to use the outside door by the grotto to access the bathroom.
- Pews will be dismissed one at a time in a controlled, spatial distancing manner. Please do NOT exit church right after Communion. Return to your pew and wait to be dismissed once the Mass is over.

RESERVATIONS

for Mass and Private Prayer/Adoration

Online reservations system:

www.mbvchurch.org

click on "Reservations"

If you have no internet
call (815) 933-8285 ext. 114
Monday – Friday Noon – 2:00 p.m.

- The easiest way to make your reservation is to go to our website at www.mbvchurch.org and click on RESERVATIONS.
- You are able to sign up yourself, as well as your family members.
- If you are registering someone who lives at a different address, please complete your reservation first, and then go back and make a reservation for that person separately.
- You will be guided through the process **and issued a ticket** to bring with you, or you can display it on your phone once you approach the Hospitality Minister at the door.
- If you do not have access to the internet, you can call (815) 933-8285 ext. 114, Monday through Friday from Noon – 2:00 pm to speak to a staff member who will make the reservation for you. Please do not leave a message on the voice mail during the off hours.
- Please note that you will be asked for your first and last name, and the first and last name of any guests you might be bringing with you (including spouse and children), your address (for contact tracing purposes), phone number, email address. You will be asked this for every reservation you make.
- The Hospitality Ministers will have a master list at the door, however, it will speed up the process of entering the church if you have your tickets either printed or displayed on your smart phone for the Hospitality Minister to easily see.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

At this time, we need many volunteers (6 per Mass). We appreciate and honor the contributions of our seniors and of our young people. However, in this time of restrictions, we must ask temporarily that our volunteers be between the ages of 18-59. This age range includes our **high school graduates** and we encourage them to volunteer. They would be a great help to us during this time. Volunteers sixty and older must be personally approved by Father Dan or Father Jason and have no overall health issues. In addition, those between the ages of 18-59 who wish to volunteer should not have any of the following health conditions that would put them at higher risk for serious illness. Some of those conditions include:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Current needs for Volunteers

Hospitality Ministers

- Duties include (before & during): assisting in checking reservations, managing the flow of congregants (guiding spatial distancing), reminding attendees that they must use hand sanitizer upon entering, that they are required to wear a mask that covers both mouth and nose, that they should not enter if ill, and directing people to appropriate seating/waiting areas. Duties also include managing the flow of communion and dismissal and the end of Mass. In addition Hospitality Ministers will assist with maintaining and cleaning essential and trafficked areas of the church after the church has been used. Masks and gloves and goggles will be provided, if you do not have your own, in addition to approved cleaning/disinfecting supplies.

Please be patient with this scheduling process, as much may be changing as we adapt to the needs of our parishioners.

To Volunteer please contact our
Volunteer Coordinator - Rhonda Smith
Email: rsmithmbvm@gmail.com
Text or leave a message at (815) 592-7568