

OUR RETURN TO PUBLIC WORSHIP
MAY, 2020

Greetings from Fr. Paul Rosing and our Pastoral Staff. We hope and pray that this finds you doing well. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Parish Pastoral Staff if you have any need.

On May 10, 2020, the Diocese of Cleveland released its ***Forward with Christ: A Path to Renewing Catholic Life*** containing guidelines for returning to public worship. It is important to remember that Mass will look, sound, and feel different than our “pre-COVID experience” – but is still, of course, the Mass. The pandemic is not over. Attending Mass – as in all public gatherings during this time – will come with a certain risk of contracting the coronavirus. We have done our best to follow proper procedures to minimize this risk – but we depend on each of our parishioners to cooperate in a spirit of promoting the common good.

As every parish is different, the development of parish-specific implementation falls upon the Pastor – in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Staff, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Nurse Ministry. In consultation with these folks – and considering our particular circumstances -- **I have adopted these protocols for Holy Family Parish -- beginning on Monday, May 25 when Mass may publicly be celebrated again:**

○ **Temporary Mass Schedule – Beginning May 25, 2020:**

- **Weekday Masses** (Monday through Friday) will be celebrated each morning at **9:00 a.m.**
 - **Weekend Masses** will be celebrated on **Saturday at 5:00 p.m.** and **Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.**
 - **Confessions** will be **Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** – until all are heard. We need to be finished with Confessions before people start to gather for Mass.
 - **All Masses will be in the Church itself.** The Weekday Chapel will continue to be the temporary venue for **Perpetual Adoration** (because of “social distancing”).
 - **In setting this schedule, the following factors** were considered: the need to thoroughly clean the church after each Mass, the need to set-up before Mass; and the possibility that some folks may find one of the Weekday Masses to be preferable to the more-crowded Weekend Masses.
 - **This is a temporary schedule** – during our re-entry process. It may be adjusted in future weeks, based on our observations.
 - Please enter by the **Bell Tower Entrance** or the **Main Doors facing Kent Road**. Please **do not enter** from the **Sycamore Road entrance** or from the **Lower Church Hall**. We need to monitor how many people enter.
- **The dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation** will continue for the foreseeable future. If you are uncomfortable being in a crowd to attend Mass, or are in an at-risk group, or apprehensive about it, **you can remain at home until you find yourself more comfortable attending in person.** Since we are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass, you might want to consider attending one of the 9:00 a.m. Weekday Masses. You may also wish to attend Mass, but are still uncomfortable receiving Holy Communion because of germs, etc. This is understandable under the circumstances. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless.
- **Our Easter Duty obligation has been extended this year for a period of one year beyond the conclusion of this Easter Season, which concludes with Pentecost on May 31.** As a reminder, the Easter Duty applies to every Catholic who has received First Communion. We should receive Communion (and Confession, if necessary) at least **once a year between Easter and Pentecost** (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2042).

- **Our live-streaming of the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday and the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass will continue.** We hope that this will continue to be a comfort for those who choose to remain at home for the time being. Many have seen the camera angles of our live-streamed Masses. If you are uncomfortable with the possibility that you might appear on a live-stream, you might choose to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass (no live-stream) or sit out of camera range.
- **Please continue to self-monitor for signs of illness:**
 - A) Have you recently lost your sense of taste or smell?
 - B) Do you have a fever now or in the past 3 days in excess of 100.4?
 - C) Do you have a dry cough?
 - D) Are you experiencing shortness of breath or fatigue?
 - E) Have you been exposed to anyone known to have Covid 19?
- **If these are present, you should not come to Mass** and, perhaps, consider a follow-up with your medical provider.
- Worshippers should **wash their hands** at home and **use hand sanitizer** upon entering the church. **Hand sanitizer** stations will be readily available. Please use hand sanitizer frequently, especially **before and after receiving Holy Communion**. If you have your own sanitizer, that would be very helpful.
- **Masks:** Catholics throughout the Diocese of Cleveland are **obligated to wear a face-covering** while on the church premises. When you arrive at church and until you leave, **you are asked to wear a mask or face-covering, except for the reception of Holy Communion**. Please also remain conscious of the standard **six-foot separation from others throughout your time within the building**.
- We assume that most folks have their own masks – for themselves and children over 2. We will have **masks available at the entrance** – sewn by generous parish volunteers. They are clean, never used, and are yours to keep for future use. Please take them with you.
- **Our rated fire code capacity** is 800 for the church. We are to accommodate only 50% or less. This reduction provides us a **maximum capacity of only 400** for the foreseeable future. We will also have “overflow seating” available downstairs in the Church Hall for Weekend Masses. Screens will be available downstairs for live-streaming -- and Holy Communion will be distributed at the normal time.
- Pews in the church will be **clearly marked for proper SIX-FOOT DISTANCING**. Please follow this carefully. Family groupings who share the same household – husband/wife, parents and children – may sit together. They must, however, maintain a six-foot distance from others.
- You will be able to **pick-up bulletins** on tables near the doors of the church and on the brick walls at the back. They will not be passed to you by the ushers or greeters. You may also get bulletins on-line, through our website: www.holyfamilystow.org. **Please take the Bulletin with you – do not leave it in the pew.**

- There will be **minimal singing** because the force of singing can propel the dreaded “droplets” further than six feet. Hymnals have been cleaned and stored for future use.
- We will have **no servers or lectors** for the time-being. After a couple of weeks, we will resume these ministries.
- During this time, we will not exchange the **Sign of Peace**.
- **Our distribution of Communion will be modified**, including no **distribution of the Precious Blood** until further notice.
- If you are **gluten intolerant**, please contact one of the priests before Mass to arrange for alternative reception.
- **We will have limited Communion stations** – designated by **clear plastic “safety screens”**. Please observe the following directions when receiving Holy Communion:
 1. Wear your mask as you wait to receive Holy Communion. **Please maintain 6-foot spacing while waiting in line.**
 2. Sanitize your hands prior to receiving Holy Communion. Please use your own sanitizer or use the sanitizer station in the Communion line.
 3. As you approach the minister of Holy Communion, bow reverently as you normally would and stand facing the priest or minister – with the screen between the two of you.
 4. **To receive on the hand:**
 - a. Make a “throne” with your hands for the minister to place the Host in your hand. Do this, as is standard practice, by placing your “dominant hand” on the bottom, and the other hand on top – palms up. Place your “throne hands” in the middle of the open window in the shield.
 - b. The minister will say, “The Body of Christ.”
 - c. You will respond, “Amen”, and the Host will be placed into your hand.
 - d. Step directly to the side onto the “X” on the floor, pause, and pick up the Host using your dominant hand.
 - e. Using your non-dominant hand, pull your mask down so that your mouth is exposed.
 - f. Consume the Host and replace your mask over your mouth. Remain at the “X” until you have replaced your mask. Use sanitizer again.
 - g. Return to your pew.
 5. **To receive on the tongue** -- Please go to the **designated Communion station** and take a place at the end of the line. This is to make it easier for the priest – who must sanitize his hands after each communicant receives. Please understand that we would much prefer that folks would practice Communion in the Hand during the current crisis. Fr. Rosing (for reasons of age, etc.) will not be available for this option.
 - a. The minister will say, “The Body of Christ”, and you will respond, “Amen.”
 - b. Using either hand, pull your mask down so that your mouth is exposed.
 - c. Tilt your head back, open your mouth, and put out your tongue.
 - d. The priest will place the Host on your tongue.
 - e. Step directly to the side onto the “X” on the floor, pause, and consume the Host.
 - f. Replace your mask over your mouth. Remain at the “X” until you have replaced your mask. Use sanitizer again.
 - g. Return to your pew.

- **Offertory Collection** -- We will not “pass the basket” nor have the ushers collect any offertory envelopes. However, **baskets will be available near the interior exit doors** of the church for any gifts that you wish to offer. Our ushers will collect these baskets soon after the conclusion of Mass.
- **Our maintenance staff and volunteers will disinfect** the church itself, restrooms, and common areas after each Mass. We ask you to help in this effort by: placing the kneelers in an upright position, removing all bulletins and papers from your place, and exiting the church as quickly as possible – using social distancing and waves/greetings rather than handshakes.
- We may have to make **modifications** in these protocols as we go.

Stay Strong – Stay Safe!

Stay Patient – Stay Kind!

Stay Careful – Stay Healthy!

God Bless You!

PJR – 05/22/2020



**HOLY FAMILY
PARISH**