

My Dear Queen of the Holy Rosary Family,

It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I am able to let you know that we will resume Masses on Tuesday, May 12 with limitations and accommodations to maintain social distancing and everyone's health. The Archdiocese has issued guidelines for reopening Masses. While the Pastoral Council is currently identifying how we can best implement the guidelines at Queen of the Holy Rosary, I want to share with you what we do know and what you can do to prepare.

The Dispensation From Archbishop Naumann Continues

First, all of you are still dispensed from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass. You should stay home if you suspect that you have been exposed to the coronavirus and have to self-quarantine for the prescribed time. Additionally, if you are among any at-risk groups, such as those over the age of 65 years old or with underlying health conditions that make contracting the virus more dangerous, you should also refrain from attending Mass. For all of you, we will continue to livestream Masses so you can stay connected to the Mass at Queen.

Masses at Queen with Attendance Limitations

Starting with the Tuesday, May 9 Mass at 8:15 am, we will resume public Masses according to the following schedule:

- Weekday Masses
 - Tuesday through Friday: 8:15 a.m.
 - Wednesday (an additional Mass): 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday Masses:
 - Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
 - Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

The Archdiocesan social distancing guidelines call for two empty pews between every pew with people; except for those who live in the same house, individuals must observe a minimum of six-foot spacing from other individuals or household groups. Early estimates from the Pastoral Council suggest that our capacity using these guidelines will be approximately 80-100 people for each Mass.

To accommodate our limited capacity and the desire that I know you all have for the Eucharist, we ask that each of you:

- Attend only one Mass weekly
- Take advantage of weekday morning Mass options if you have the personal flexibility to attend
- Consider the 6 p.m. Wednesday night Mass for families to attend with children, if you have flexibility
- If you are a minister who is scheduled for a Mass, please only attend your assigned Mass for the week (The Liturgy Committee is working on a new schedule for those comfortable exercising their ministry)
- Participate in Eucharistic adoration in the church, which will be available from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily beginning Tuesday, May 12th for those who wish to pray in the church. Please maintain social distancing. We will invite you to sanitize your space when you leave with supplies that we will provide. The church will be sanitized additionally throughout the day by our custodial staff.

Based on attendance limitations, guidelines to suspend congregational singing and interaction during the offertory and sign of peace, suspension of distribution of the Precious Blood, and the need to ensure time to sanitize the church, Masses will be kept under 45 minutes.

Next Steps Under Development

There is much to prepare for next week. We are working on the following items right now. I will provide updates as the Pastoral Council explores options and makes recommendations on:

- A reservation process to indicate which Mass during the week you hope to attend so that we can maximize the number of people at each Mass
- A revamped ministry schedule that reflects the number of ministers needed, the specific roles required, and accommodates ministers who are in high-risk groups
- The specific sanitation steps that we will use between all Masses to ensure the health and wellness of all parishioners attending Mass
- Training sacristans, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, and cantors on new procedures relevant for their roles

Needless to say, there is much activity underway to prepare to welcome all of you back to the Eucharistic table.

What You Can Do to Get Ready

Right now, there are several things you can do to ready yourself and your family for public Mass:

- Prayerfully reflect on your openness to attending daily masses to create opportunities for those who can only attend on weekends
- Continue to take advantage of confession on Saturday, starting at 2:30 p.m. at the church door
- Download an app (such as Laudate) with the readings and Mass prayers since we will remove all hymnals and liturgy guides to minimize commonly touched surfaces
- Review guidelines and how-to videos for attending Mass as we share them at queenoftheholynosary.com/ and our parish Facebook page facebook.com/queenoftheholynosary
- Make sure you have a face mask to bring to church and wear during Mass (we will have only a limited number of masks available for those who forget)

Looking Forward to Ministering to You in Person

As I've told you during the livestreamed Masses, I have missed being with the Queen of the Holy Rosary flock and ministering to you in person. I eagerly await when we can celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass together once again. In the meantime, I ask that the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of the Rosary grace all of us with patience and understanding as we enter into this wonderful time to reopen the Mass to you, the faithful.

Gratefully Yours in Christ,

Fr. Bill Bruning