



May 8, 2020

Dear St. Pascal Baylon Parishioners,

I hope this letter finds you staying safe and healthy. The last two months have been very challenging for our world and we know how much everyone would like to return to public Mass at church. **We do not know yet when we will be allowed to have public Masses again but we are in the process of creating a plan to keep everyone safe when the time comes.** We need to await final clarification from Archbishop Hebda and the State of Minnesota about the date and how public Masses can begin. The Parish Staff and I have been working hard to prepare for the return to Mass. This is what I can tell you now:

1. We plan to follow strict guidelines for social distancing.
2. We will have hand sanitizer available at church entrances and we will disinfect our church before and after each Mass.
3. We will publicize that people over age 65 are strongly encouraged to not attend public Masses until further notice. Anyone showing symptoms of sickness such as fever, tiredness or dry cough should not attend public Masses. Anyone who has a household member who is sick or showing symptoms of sickness should not come to Mass.
4. We will follow Archbishop Hebda's directive that public Masses will be limited to groups of no more than 1/3 of the seating capacity of the Church. We are planning for how that would work in our church space.
5. We will ask people to wear face masks during public Mass.
6. There will be new procedures that we will need to follow to safely celebrate Mass while also trying to maintain the dignity of the Eucharistic celebration and respect for liturgical norms.

When I have more information next week or in the near future, I will write to you again with more specifics of what, when and how to return to Mass here. You are in my daily prayers.

God Bless You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father John Mitchell".

Father John Mitchell
Pastor

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