

ST. WILLIAM PARISH

531 Common
Walled Lake, MI 48390

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Website: www.stwilliam.com

May 19, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

As you have probably heard, we are resuming public Masses beginning this weekend, but with stringent safety protocols in place. Please note that, although Masses will be offered, **the bishop has dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass through September 6th**, so people who are at serious risk from the COVID19 virus need not be concerned. To help us address the virus concerns, including the need to sanitize between Masses, at this time we will be holding only two public Masses per weekend: Saturdays at 4:30 PM and Sundays at 10:30 AM. **We will also continue to livestream the 10:30 Masses.**

There will be no weekday Masses at this time while we assess our new safety protocols. Also, it will give us flexibility in scheduling Funeral Masses for those families who have lost a loved one over the last two months, but were not able to celebrate Mass at that time.

Should you consider coming to Church?

Anyone who suspects they are becoming ill, or has a temperature, cough, etc., should definitely stay home, to prevent possible virus transmission to others. Parishioners who are older than 65, especially if they have a compromised health condition—or *anyone* with a compromised health condition, or who are caring for vulnerable persons—**are strongly encouraged to stay home**. Although everyone is dispensed from Mass attendance until September 6th, please note that people should still observe the Lord's Day. For example, spend extra time in prayer on Sunday, perform special works of mercy, or participate in a broadcast Mass. (Ours is livestreamed at 10:30, and the recording is available afterwards.)

Once the church is filled, observing proper social distancing, no more people will be allowed in. If you are unfortunately turned away, however, please let an usher know how many were in your family group, so that we can consider how many additional Masses might be needed as we move forward.

Specific Instructions:

- Cloth face coverings (masks) must be worn, except by children under 2 years old. They are removed only for the actual reception of Communion.
- The Church and Activity Center will be arranged for proper social distancing.
 - Seating for the assembly will be directed by the ushers, to ensure that people follow the distancing guidelines.
 - People in the same household will be seated together, but others must be 6 feet apart.

- In the main part of the church, we will be using every other pew.
- Rows of chairs will be at least 6 feet apart and the chairs will be 3 feet from each other. Keep one empty chair between you and anyone who is not a member of your household.
- The Offertory Procession will be omitted. Collection baskets will be in the Tower Entrances so that donations can be dropped into the baskets before or after Mass.
- The invitation to exchange the Sign of Peace will be omitted.
- Holy Water and Baptismal fonts will remain empty.
- Although there will be hand sanitizing stations at the entrances, you are encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer, which especially can be used before coming up for Communion.
- Hymnals will be removed, but we will be using our projection screens to aid participation.
- At the end of Mass, to avoid large numbers leaving at the same time, the ushers will dismiss the people one pew or section at a time.

Distribution of Holy Communion

At Communion time, there will be an announcement reminding people of the safety protocols we need to follow. Specifically:

- As you process up, continue wearing your mask. Remove the mask as you receive Communion, and then replace it before processing back. Remove any gloves as you process up.
- There is a single line for procession, and the spacing between persons is marked on the floor.
- Stand 6 feet in front of the Minister of Communion (as marked on floor). *Bow*. “The Body of Christ”. *Respond*: “Amen”. *Then step forward* to receive.
- We encourage everyone to receive in the hand (one hand above the other), as the method least likely to spread the virus. If a person receives on the tongue, the Ministers of Communion will need to stop and re-sanitize their hands.

Confessions

We’re making special arrangements for the next 2 weeks before Pentecost, and we’ll assess how well they work. The times will be:

- Thursday May 21st from 4–6 PM
Fr. Pat Brennan, C.P., will assist me with the confessions at this time.
- Thursday May 28th from 11AM–1 PM, and from 4–6 PM.
Msgr. Timothy Hogan will help with confessions at these times.

For Confession, drive up to one of the Tower Entrances. (Ushers will be there to direct traffic.) Exit your car and come into the vestibule, where a chair will be set up 6 feet away from the priest. Only face-to-face Confessions will be available, to eliminate the need to

sanitize kneelers and screens. Masks must be worn. After Confession, return to your car and drive away. If the church doors are not already open, “elbow-bump” the handicapped button to activate the door. The rest of the church will be locked during this time.

In Conclusion:

We appreciate your continued support for the Parish during this difficult time, and we take courage from the knowledge that the Lord has not abandoned His Church, and so we can look forward with HOPE to the great things the Holy Spirit will be doing in and through us!

In Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Michael G. Savickas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rev. Michael G. Savickas

Pastor