

My Dear Parish Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe, in good health, and enduring these unsettling days of quarantine with faith and hope. This historic COVID pandemic has required us all to make enormous sacrifices to protect the health of our community. I hope you and your family are adjusting to these circumstances and that you are experiencing the comfort of God's faithful presence every day. Among the many ways this crisis has had an impact on all of us, the suspension of public Masses is most difficult. I know how much you miss the opportunity to gather together as a parish family for worship, and especially to receive the Eucharist. Understandably, everyone is anxious to return to normalcy.

I am happy to announce to you that the public celebration of the Mass in the Diocese of Owensboro may resume on May 20, 2020. But the threat of the coronavirus is still very much with us. Even now, some areas of the country continue to experience new cases and increased fatality rates. Physical distancing, the wearing of masks, and increased cleaning procedures will be with us for a very long time. This will certainly impact the way we worship and the rituals which are a vital part of our faith. Masses are beginning in a limited manner and with the exercise of great caution. The pandemic is far from over and precautions must be taken to protect one another. Among other things, these precautions will include physical distancing and the wearing of face masks.

In order to maintain physical distancing, it is necessary to limit the number of people who attend each Mass. Occupancy is limited to 33% of each church's capacity. Consequently, since we can hardly accommodate 25 people in each church, we will have Mass for both churches in the gym and if the weather permits we will have 8:00 a.m. Mass in the cemetery at Saint Lawrence and Saturday 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. at the grassy area by the side of the gym.

Please bring your own chairs if we are having Mass outside. Weekend Masses will be as normal, Saturday at 4:00 p.m. (in the school gym. If the weather permits outside), Sunday 6:30 a.m. (in the gym) 8:00 a.m. at Saint Lawrence (at the cemetery if the weather permits or in the school gym), and 10:00 a.m. (in the school gym at Saint William. If the weather permits outside).

To allow for more people to attend Mass, given the limited capacity per Mass, we will have Masses throughout the week. Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. at Saint William (7:20 a.m. begins with Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by Rosary and Mass) and 6:00 p.m. at Saint Lawrence (begins the Holy Hour at 5:00 p.m. with Evening Prayer, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary followed by Mass) Saturday Mass of the Blessed Mother at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Lawrence.

Confessions will be at the gym on every Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

I am so grateful to you for your love and care for our parish family. Thank you for supporting your parish family in many generous ways especially financially. Thank you for your prayers, your faithfulness and your support. May the Lord bless and keep each of you and your loved ones during this challenging and historic time. Attending to your pastoral needs is a great concern of mine. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

With love and prayer,

Fr. Augusty Valomchalil