

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. George and Church of the Risen Savior Parish,

Governor Parson and Bishop McKnight have issued directives beginning May 4th which allow the celebration of daily and weekend Mass, with the firm stipulation that precautions will remain in place. Those precautions include primarily maintaining safe distancing if possible. Therefore I would like to resume a “revised” **weekday Mass schedule of Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 8am at St. George, and Wednesday at 6pm at Church of the Risen Savior,** beginning **MAY 6TH AT CRS AT 6PM;** and resume the usual **weekend Mass schedule of 5pm Saturday, 7am and 10:30am at St. George, and 8:30am at Church of the Risen Savior on the weekend of May 9-10.**

I ask that the following precautions be taken by everybody that attends Mass at least until June 30th, or at an otherwise designated date if changes are made on a State-wide and Diocesan-wide designation. These are in line with the Bishop’s directives which I ask you to please read as well.

- 1) Bishop McKnight has dispensed all Catholics in the Diocese of Jefferson City from the moral obligation to attend weekend Mass up to June 30th, 2020.
- 2) Please do not feel “guilty” or embarrassed for not attending Mass. If, in any way, you don’t feel comfortable returning to Mass at this time, please do not do so.
- 3) Please do not attend any Mass if you have the slightest temperature or have a cold or cough. Please do not attend Mass at this time if you feel uncomfortable being in such a public gathering.
- 4) If it is at all possible with your schedule I encourage you to attend any of the weekday Masses instead of the weekend Masses during the months of May and June. **WEEKDAY MASS BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH, AT 6PM, AT CRS CHURCH.** I’ve listed the schedule above.
- 5) Please try to use **EVERY OTHER PEW** when gathering for Mass on the weekend or weekday! Benches and chairs will be available at StG church for over flow.
- 6) In the pews, gathering outside or inside of either church, please try to maintain the “six-feet” rule unless you are with other family members; please respect people’s right to feel safe in our presence.
- 7) Please “Germ-Ex” your hands when you enter StG or CRS church at any entrance and at any time of the day.
- 8) Please avoid hand-shakes with anybody other than family members, while entering church, during Mass, and while exiting Mass.
- 9) Hymnals and missalettes will be removed from the pew racks in both churches until June 15th and there will be no congregational singing.
- 10) When processing forward to receive Holy Communion, please try to maintain 6 feet distance with anyone other than family.
- 11) Please receive Holy Communion in the hand.
- 12) **Please honor the Bp’s directive to wear a mask (or other type of face covering) when and while attending any Mass.**

I am looking forward to resuming the public celebration of Mass. Hopefully the precautions we take will make it possible in the not-too-distant-future to “relax” these practices to a point that we feel comfortable attending Mass and will soon be able to greet each other and welcome each other in a much warmer, more friendly, and familiar fashion as fellow parishioners.

It is crucial that we all remain patient, thoughtful, and helpful during this time. There are a lot of “mixed” feelings about this step and we need to remember that we attend Catholic Mass because we are followers of Jesus Christ, Christians; which means that we need to put aside anger and resentment, as He would, and simply help each other move forward. As your pastor I ask you to please help me do that.

Let’s pray for each other, our families, and our communities.

God bless,

May 2020