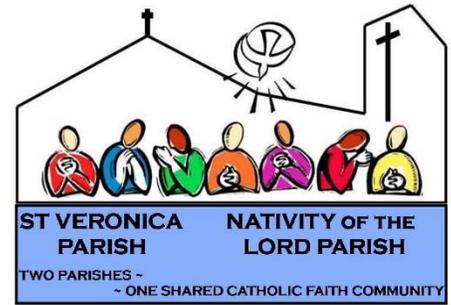


Archbishop Jerome Listecky has announced that public Masses may resume at St Veronica and Nativity of the Lord Parishes beginning **May 30**. Accompanying this announcement is a set of directives and restrictions that respects the Church's sacramental life and reasonably promotes the safety of both the faithful and presiding priests to participate. The questions-and-answer format below describes how this will take place.



Is the Dispensation to attend Sunday Mass still in effect?

Yes. The faithful are dispensed through Sunday, July 5. While you are encouraged and welcome to return, you also must decide the risks of attending Mass based your health in light of the ongoing public emergency. **There is still a risk for anyone who attends a public Mass to contract the coronavirus.** Please stay at home if you are remotely ill or considered to be a high risk for contracting COVID-19 or have safety concerns due to the virus. The weekend Mass will continue to be streamed online.

What is the Mass schedule for our churches?

In this initial stage, the weekend Mass schedule will change:

- St Veronica: 4:15pm Saturday & 10:30am Sunday
- Nativity of the Lord: 8:30am & 5:30pm Sunday

Since Fr Carmelo is the only shared-priest for both churches, he desires to be present and available to all parishioners and at all weekend Masses.

What is the seating capacity for our churches?

Both churches may not seat more than 25% of its capacity:

- Nativity of the Lord: approximately 88 people plus ushers/liturgical ministers
- St Veronica: approximately 100 people plus ushers/liturgical ministers

Participants sit in **every THIRD pew to respect the six-foot, safe social distancing**. Exterior signs and floor/pews markings will guide participants to their seats. Household families can sit together but should observe safe social distancing between itself and others.

Will liturgical ministers be needed for Mass?

Yes. Only volunteers who are comfortable worshipping in a group setting should consider. Two ushers, one sacristan, server, reader, keyboard accompanist and cantor will be assigned. Young-of-age altar servers will not be assigned initially. The parish will provide protective gloves and/or masks to participating ushers and liturgical ministers.

What will access to Mass look like?

Entry into the church is limited to two doors. Exit is through any door from the inside.

- St Veronica: Door #4 (Norwich St) & Door #9 (Handicap/Elevator door)
- Nativity of the Lord: North Kirkwood Ave Door & Handicap/Parking Lot Door

To minimize turning people away who desire to participate at a certain Mass, you **must reserve a seat(s) by phone or email**.

- Nativity of the Lord: 414-744-6622 & parishoffice@nativitycudahy.org
- St Veronica: 414-482-2920 & parishoffice@stvmke.org

Reservations are taken every Monday through Thursday prior to the following weekend's liturgies (*on Memorial Day week, call Tuesday, May 26*). Reserved seats will be held until ten minutes before Mass. Otherwise walk-ins will be allowed to claim those seats. Once the seating capacity is reached, people will be turned away.

Everyone is on the honor system as for how close they sit next to each other. Some areas of the church will be closed to the public such as the family/crying rooms, atrium and ushers room. Rest rooms will be open.

Will the Holy Water fonts be filled?

No.

Can I light a candle at one of the shrines?

No. But you can call/stop in the parish office to arrange for a candle to be lit at a particular shrine.

Will the hymnals and missalettes be available?

No. All books and paper materials will be removed from church. A handout will be offered when you enter church will contain the music and Mass readings. It must be taken home with you after Mass and cannot be reused. Personal missals, Bibles or prayer cards are still acceptable provided that the participant takes it home with them.

Will there be an Offertory Collection?

No. The passing of a collection basket is prohibited. However, you can place your offertory envelope in the basket at the front hand sanitizer station prior to receiving Holy Communion. You are still encouraged to contribute to your parishes: either online, mail or dropping it off at the parish office.

What will the Communion procession look like?

Only the priest/deacon will offer the Body of Christ (only) to the participants and it will be dispensed in the participant's hand only. **Participants should remove any protective gloves prior to sanitizing their hands and receiving Holy Communion.** To observe safe social distancing, ushers will guide the faithful, pew-by-pew, to come forward.

What will the dismissal procedure look like at the end of Mass?

After the Recessional Song, the congregation should be seated until being directed by an usher to exit. Attendees should wash their clothes following the Mass.

How will the worship space and its surroundings be cleaned and sanitized?

Each church will be **professionally cleaned** between Masses. The contractor will wipe down the ends of pews as well as the surfaces of every occupied pews. All doors and handles and bathroom surfaces will also be cleaned. The process culminates with a disinfecting spray. Having a professional service clean both churches (between the weekend Masses) reduces the risks of volunteers/maintenance staff being exposed to the virus when it is greatest.

Will hand sanitizers be available to participants?

Yes. Mass participants should sanitize their hands three times: **upon entry into church, prior to receiving Holy Communion and upon exiting church.** Each church will provide automated dispensers located at strategic areas to accomplish this. Participants are encouraged to bring personal hand sanitizers, protective gloves and/or face masks—at their own expense. The parishes will provide protective equipment to assigned ushers and sacristans. Readers must remove their mask prior to entering the sanctuary. Priests/servers will not wear mask or protective gloves in the sanctuary.

How long will these procedures and restriction remain in place?

There is no pre-determined timeline.

Is the parish office still open?

Yes. But most scheduled parish events have been postponed at least through the end of June. The St Veronica Food Pantry anticipates re-opening on Wednesday, May 27. Watch the parish bulletin for further announcements.

Are parish bulletin available?

Bulletins can be accessed online or picked up at the parish office.

Will Confessions be available?

Yes. On Saturdays at St Veronica: 3:15-4:00pm. On Sundays at Nativity of the Lord: 4:30 – 5:15pm.

Are daily Masses, funerals or wedding services available?

Daily Mass might be offered after July 5. Some funerals/weddings have been postponed. All are subjected to current archdiocesan procedures as well as Badger Bounce Back regulations.

When will Baptisms, Confirmations, RCIA/RCIC Receptions, First Communions occur?

Yes, sometime between early and late summer. It depends on multiple factors, most especially the guidelines currently in place and what is optimal for the participating families.