



St. John Vianney Parish
St. Louis Church - St. Joseph Church,
St. John the Evangelist Church - St. Paul Church
St. Charles Borromeo Church - St. Mary Church,

Very Reverend Jean-Paul Labrie - Pastor

May 26, 2020

Dear members of St. John Vianney Parish,

My continued prayers and concern for all of you and also your loved ones. Many people have sent in prayer requests and those prayers are remembered daily, especially at the mass that I celebrate. We have been expecting new guidelines and these did come in late on the 22nd of May, last Friday. I would encourage you to consult the letter sent last week (if you have deleted yours, it can be found on the parish webpage). Today I will share with you the guidelines received from the diocese. Some of you might be familiar with these already if you have access to Diocesan mailings.

Effective Monday, June 1st, the Diocese of Portland is allowing Maine churches to hold public Masses with restrictions and safeguards in place. All public Masses were temporarily suspended on March 18th due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues to be in place. Live-streamed masses will continue as most parishioners will not be able to attend in person due to the capacity restrictions. "Some of the restrictions may seem to be too cautious for the faithful who wish to return to public masses at this time," said Bishop Deeley. "However, ensuring the safety and health of our clergy, employees, students, volunteers, parishioners, and the greater community remains our top priority."

Below are the guidelines that each parish must follow:

- No more than 50 people can be in attendance at any Mass. That includes the priest, lector, cantor, and other church personnel.
- A fair and equitable registration process for parishioners who want to attend Mass must be established at each church/parish to ensure the restricted attendance capacity is not exceeded.
- Anyone from outside of Maine who has not quarantined for 14 days in Maine prior to mass may not attend.
- Masks will be worn by those attending Mass to protect against the projection of respiratory particles.
- Pew seating arrangements will be established to keep each person at least six feet from the next person.
- Communion will be offered with social-distancing guidelines adhered to in the form of six feet of space between communicants. The distribution of the shared consecrated wine for the faithful is still suspended. Holy water fonts will remain empty for the time being.
- Seats and pews will be sanitized after each Mass. Every other pew will be used, and the flow of foot traffic will go in one direction if possible, to avoid crowding.
- Churches will have proper resources available to clean the church following the Mass with staff members and volunteers receiving proper training and PPE equipment in advance. Cleaning will consist of all pews, knobs, door handles, bathrooms, altars, musical equipment, and touched surfaces.
- No social gatherings are allowed before or after any Mass.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be positioned in churches.

In addition, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions and who might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are asked not to attend.

26 East Main Street Fort Kent Maine 04743
Telephone No. 207-834-5656 Fax No. 207-834-7461

Many of these guides lines are common sense and in one way or another we have already been following them. The first public masses in St. John Vianney Parish will be the first weekend in June, that is Saturday the 6th and Sunday the 7th. All the masses will be celebrated at their normal times. Monday June 1st is when parishioners can begin to register for the mass of their choice. If you are not able to attend the weekend mass of your choice, consider one of the weekday masses. We are still in the process of getting organized to do this work. If there are any who would like to volunteer to help greet people or help in the cleaning after each service, please let the rectory office know. I know not everyone is happy with these restrictions and some people are trying to test the boundaries but I am most happy in the way so many have accepted and worked with the guidelines that all of us are called to follow. I am looking forward to the days with real people in the pews and please pray that all of this works well with no health complications or difficulties.

My prayers and my blessing

Jean-Paul Labrie

Very Reverend Jean-Paul Labrie

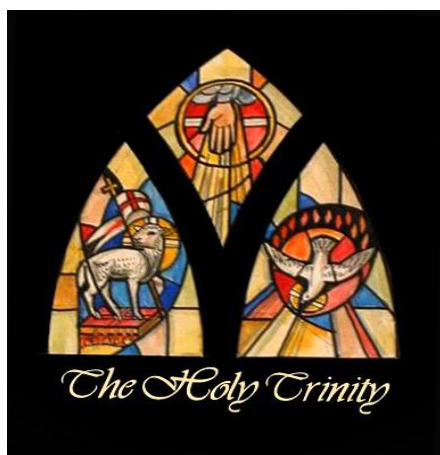
Public masses start on Saturday, June 6, 2020

Mass Schedule:

Saturday	St. Louis Church	4:00 pm
Saturday	St. Charles Church	6:00 pm
Sunday	St. Louis Church	9:00 am
Sunday	St. Mary Church	11:00 am
Sunday	St. Joseph Church	5:00 pm
Monday	St. Louis Church	6:00 pm
Tuesday	St. Louis Church	6:00 pm
Wednesday	St. Louis Church	9:00 am
Thursday	St. Louis Church	4:00 pm
Friday	St. Louis Church	4:00 pm

Registrations opens on June 1, 2020 at 9:00 am

Please call the parish office at 834-5656, Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday between the hours of 9:00 am – 3:30 pm to registration to attend mass. Due to limited office hours, registration for mass is limited to three days of the week.



***The Most Holy Trinity
Father, Son & Holy Spirit***