



Main Office: 767 Elm Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Phone: (860) 529-8655  
FAX: (860) 257-1754  
office@sjbrh.org

Dear Parishioners of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish:

June 25, 2020

**Important information concerning resumption of weekend Masses: PLEASE READ**

First, and foremost, I must say you are missed and hope you have been well and safe over these past few months. You have been in my prayers every day.

Archbishop Blair, in consultation with State and health officials, has announced the second phase of the opening of parishes on **July 4-5**. Please take into consideration when evaluating your readiness to attend Mass that the Archbishop has **extended the suspension for the obligation** to attend weekend Mass until September 2020.

Our Schedule:

- Saturday at 4:00 p.m. at St. James **capacity of 80 people**
- Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton **capacity 50 at each Mass**
- Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at St. James **capacity 80 people**

**Reservations will be required due to limits for seating capacity**

There are two options for making reservations:

1. Sign up online at [www.saintjosephinebakhita.org](http://www.saintjosephinebakhita.org) beginning **each Tuesday and Wednesday** until capacity reached for each weekend Mass...one week at a time. Enter the # (quantity) of people attending from each household when you reserve. Consider signing up alternate weekends to give others a chance.
2. If you have no access to internet call 860-529-8655 or 860-529-1274 and the office staff will try to register you online. Call only on Tuesday or Wednesday, each week, between 9 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Do not leave a voicemail, there will be no guarantee to reserve a seat by voicemail.

**Who Can Attend?**

1. By reservation only
2. Admittance restrictions:
  - 65 years old and up: strongly discouraged to attend
  - Those with pre-existing health issues, any vulnerability, fear, or anxiety **MUST NOT** attend
  - Caretakers of infirm **MUST NOT** attend
  - Any person in contact with someone diagnosed with covid-19 **MUST NOT** attend
  - You **MUST NOT** attend if you have any symptoms of covid-19

**Before Mass**

1. Mask/covering **MUST** be worn (bring your own)
  - From vehicle throughout Mass (except briefly at communion) to return to vehicle
  - Cover your nose and mouth
  - Required from age 3 and up
2. Bring your own hand sanitizer (very limited supplies at church)
3. Main church doors will open 20 minutes prior to Mass
  - you will be asked to have your temperature taken
  - you will be directed to specific seats marked with blue tape
  - **At St. James only: rear main doors will be open for entry (parish center side)**
4. No congregating at any time
5. Absolute 6 feet social distancing always
6. Restrooms will be restricted (except for an emergency...come prepared)

Saint James Church, 767 Elm Street ~ Saint Elizabeth Seton Church, 280 Brook Street  
Roman Catholic Community, Rocky Hill, CT 06067



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#### During Mass

1. Wear Mask/covering **always** (except briefly at communion)
2. No touching: hand holding or kiss of peace
3. Be attentive to precise instructions for reception of Holy Communion in the hand
4. No Holy Communion from the cup
5. Cry room is closed/ Fr. Shea Hall closed
6. No holy water in fonts
7. No missalettes, hymnals, bulletins, booklets, programs, etc.
8. No singing (causes serious spread of virus)

#### Leaving Mass

1. Attendees will be dismissed row by row...6 feet apart
2. No congregating...return to vehicles directly
3. DO NOT congregate around candle stands/statues/shrines/tabernacle
4. DO NOT remove mask until in your vehicle

#### Additional Information

1. **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will resume on Mondays starting July 6th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton, until further notice. The same safety requirements will be in place.
2. Our Sunday Mass live streamed on Facebook will continue along with the Archdiocesan TV Masses on your local TV stations.
3. Parish office is open by appointment from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. M-F: wear a mask and social distance.

On a more personal level, I am 65 years old and fall in the category of risk and vulnerability. If I had a choice, which I do not, I would opt to remain home until there is a safer way to return to Mass. I have minor pre-existing health conditions; therefore, I ask that you try to make plans about your attending Mass that will not impact me or Deacon Michael, especially at Holy Communion time.

I realize these directives may be startling and cut-and-dry, but necessary to enter a more open church with safety and responsibility for the welfare of all parishioners. And so, we pray for your patience and understanding, as you make the wisest decision about coming to church. Finally, if you do come to Mass you may want to come less frequently to give other healthy parishioners a chance to attend. Maybe alternate weekends - **Remember reservations are required.**

We are aware that not everyone has a computer or internet service and we want to stay connected to you. Would you like to receive the weekly Church bulletin by mail? Please contact the church office at 860-529-8655 and we will put you on the mailing list.

Finally, a sincere word of gratitude for your continued financial support by mail or online. With your help our mission and ministry continue uninterrupted.

Peace and blessings!  
Fr George Couturier