

Hello Mary, Queen of Heaven family! ☺

Praised be Jesus Christ!!

Everyone say a great big 'Alleluia'!!! The wait is over - we got the word this week that Public Masses can start next Wednesday, May 20 and our first weekend Masses will be Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24. Woo-Hoo!!! ☺

The Diocese has sent out protocols for celebrating Mass during this pandemic. Those protocols will be in tomorrow's Messenger newspaper and we will also post them on our website. The protocols are 4 pages long - so I'm only going to list some of the very important ones.

But, before I do, if you are over the age of 60, I strongly suggest that you do not come to Mass. Also, no matter what age you are, if you have an underlying health condition, I strongly suggest you do not come to Mass. Your health is of paramount importance to me!! ☺

Some highlights of the protocols:

- 1) No one is obligated to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. So, if you don't feel safe coming to Mass, you don't need to - the obligation to attend Mass has been lifted indefinitely.
- 2) Social distancing will be observed. Because of this, seating capacity will be limited. Pews will be marked as to where people can sit. Families living in a household together do not need to observe social distancing.
- 3) I strongly encourage you to wear face masks - although it is not required.
- 4) Pews, door handles, and bathrooms will be sprayed with disinfectant after every Mass. We only have a half-hour between our weekend Masses - so I'm definitely going to need help from you-all to accomplish this. ☺
- 5) We will not be using hymnals.
- 6) Ushers/Greeters must wear face masks.
- 7) Holy water fonts will not be used.
- 8) The Sign of Peace will be omitted from Mass.
- 9) Ministers of Holy Communion must wear face masks and sanitize hands before and after distributing Holy Communion.
- 10) When coming forward for Holy Communion, markers will be in the middle aisle to facilitate safe social distancing.
- 11) Holy Communion can only be received in the hand. Holy Communion will not be distributed on the tongue.
- 12) We will not be having our weekly Confession time from 3-3:30pm on Saturday afternoons. Confession are being heard, but by appointment only.

The first couple weekends, Mass will kinda be a work-in-progress in regards to the seating arrangements - so please be patient with me and my staff. ☺ All of these guidelines are for your safety - that is extremely important to me.

Because of social distancing there will be limited seating in the church. As you enter church, the left side is designated for families. Families that live together do not need to socially distance, but families do need to socially distance from other families.

All of the seating on the right side of the church will be socially distanced - the pews will be marked with tape to show where you can sit.

Once the church reaches maximum capacity of occupants, people will be directed to the gym - the Mass will be live-streamed into the gym. Holy Communion will also be distributed in the gym.

During “normal” times, our 5:30am Saturday Mass and our 8:30am Sunday Mass are our least attended Masses - so you may want to consider attending those Masses if you are worried about getting a seat.

We will continue live-streaming Masses indefinitely, the link is:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCM0Ha5Yn32u_1HnG6R8xUw.

Daily Mass times will remain at 10am throughout the summer.

Beginning Monday, May 18 we will no longer be having daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We will resume our normal schedule of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays at the end of the 10am Mass and ending with Benediction at 5pm.

Because of the pandemic, we will not be bringing Holy Communion to the home-bound.

Whew - I know that's a lot of information! 😊 I can't wait to see you-all at Mass! Until then, God bless you and stay safe. 😊

Peace & grace,

Fr. Kevin