

May 13, 2020

Greetings everybody!

It's Tuesday morning and we have received the protocols from the Archdiocese for attending and celebrating public Masses...nine pages worth!! I'll try to condense all the information specific to our parish.

Here we go, get comfortable:

### **BEFORE MASS:**

- † Obligation for Catholics to attend Sunday Mass is still dispensed until further notice.
- † Those with underlying health issues or who are over 60 years old are strongly encouraged NOT TO ATTEND MASS.
- † We will continue to live stream the Sunday Liturgy as we have been doing.
- † No more than three people to a pew (six feet apart) using every other pew. Total people in our church may not exceed 45.
- † EVERYONE in church, except the celebrant MUST wear a mask.
- † No missalettes or songbooks will be available.
- † Holy Water fonts are to remain empty.
- † Priests may not greet parishioners before Mass.
- † Church doors must be propped open so no one touches any handles.

### **DURING MASS:**

- † Three people to a pew: Families over three people will use one pew together.
- † Offertory processions are suspended. The offertory basket will be placed at the rear of church to receive envelopes. Please consider our online giving program.
- † The Sign of Peace is suspended.
- † The line to receive Holy Communion shall be SINGLE FILE using the six-foot distancing. We will have the appropriate markings on the floor.
- † Holy Communion (host only) will be received in the HAND ONLY. Briefly pull down masks to receive Holy Communion as you walk away.
- † Only the celebrant will distribute Holy Communion.
- † Servers will not be used.

### **AFTER MASS:**

- † Family units should leave church together keeping the six-foot distance from other families.
- † Printed handouts (bulletins) or other printed materials are not to be distributed.
- † Priests may not greet parishioners after Mass.
- † Social gatherings such as breakfasts, dinners, doughnuts and coffee, following Mass are prohibited.
- † Gatherings in groups outside after Mass is not recommended.
- † Pews and other high traffic areas are to be wiped down before the next service. We've ordered cleaning supplies from the Archdiocese at no cost to us (ACA funds used here!) **Some volunteers will be needed for this task.**  
**Any takers? Call Sarah if you would like to do this.**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- † We will begin scheduling our First Communion and Confirmation celebrations very soon.
- † We are allowed to have meetings but MUST use the six-foot rule and wear masks. In this regard, telephone and internet conferencing are highly recommended.
- † With our tuck pointing project still in process, there will be a designated way to enter and leave church. Please be careful, folks!
- † Regarding future big events such as Homecoming, Dinner Auction, Shooting Match, planning should go forward just like normal. Hopefully these will go on as planned, but it is possible they may not, or they may be curtailed somewhat. Time will tell.
- † Daily Masses will begin May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30am. The above protocol must be observed.
- † We will keep our regular weekend Mass schedule as is for now. It may change later on to accommodate more people. We'll see.

All the above items have been promulgated by the Diocesan Bishops of the four Dioceses in Missouri after consultation with appropriate health officials in accordance with national and local health directives. Patience is of paramount importance if we are to gather together again as a worshipping community in our beautiful church. I'm both excited and nervous about getting back to "somewhat normal" worship practices. Let us bear with one another patiently and may God be praised by our efforts! Thank you all, and God bless you.

*Fr. Tom*