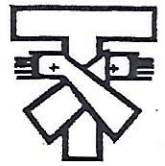


June 6, 2021
Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



My dear parishioners,

Recently the Bishops of New Jersey have lifted the general dispensation from the obligation of Mass effective today on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. It is important to notice that they add the following proviso: *This obligation does not apply to those who are ill; those who have reason to believe that they were recently exposed to the coronavirus or another serious or contagious illness; those who are confined to their home, a hospital, or nursing facility; or those with serious underlying health conditions. One should consult the local pastor if questions arise about the obligation to attend Mass.*

The Franciscan Friars here at St. Bon's, our deacons, and the entire pastoral staff welcome you back to full and active participation in the life of our parish, especially at our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist where we remember the saving acts of God and become the Body and Blood of Christ for the life of the world!

Last week Bishop Kevin Sweeney issued a pastoral letter that sets out general principles for pastors to determine particulars. What follows are his words along with my commentary. I hope these pages answer your questions and help us to begin again.

I. THE PRECEPT OF MASS ATTENDANCE

1. The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass is lifted effective on the Vigil of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 5, 2021 for all of those in good health.
2. Livestream participation will continue at the same Masses: Sundays at 11:30 AM (English) and 5:30 PM (Spanish); Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 AM (English).
3. Those who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus who are not vaccinated, and especially those with one or several underlying medical conditions, may follow Mass at home via livestream or television.
4. If you have a cough or fever of any kind, stay home. Do not take part in Mass in-person.
5. All who are healthy and who do not regularly come in contact with those who have serious underlying medical conditions are encouraged to take part in Mass in-person.

II. OCCUPANCY OF CHURCHES AND ACCESS TO CHURCHES

1. Occupancy restrictions for social distancing purposes are lifted (Governor's Executive Order, 242, May 24, 2021). Masks are not required for those who are vaccinated.
2. Our commitment to the safety of all who worship with us continues. Mask and sanitizing stations are available in the church and other parish buildings. Though the church will not be disinfected after every event, it will be cleaned regularly, as will other parish buildings.

III. OTHER LITURGICAL MATTERS

A.) GENERAL

1. Holy Water fonts and the baptismal font are filled with holy water and cleaned regularly.
2. Altar servers now assist at liturgical celebrations.
3. A procession with the bread and wine begins again. Before the Mass, ushers invite families or friends of the person for whom the Mass is offered to present the offerings at the proper time.

4. The ushers take up the collection and secure it in the safe in the usual way.
5. Electronic giving continues and is encouraged.
6. While it is not required that deacons receive the Precious Blood from the chalice, they may do so by intinction from a chalice apart from the celebrant's. Priests who concelebrate must receive the Precious Blood. They receive by intinction from a chalice separate from the principal celebrant's.
7. Communion under both kinds for all is not resumed at this time.
8. Please bring hand sanitizer to use before the reception of Holy Communion. If you do not, the dispensers remain in the church for your use.
9. Priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers use hand sanitizer before and after the distribution of Holy Communion, whether in church, health care facility, or private homes.
10. You are encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand.
11. Those who wish to receive on the tongue are asked to receive at the conclusion of the Communion Procession.
12. The priest and other ministers have hand sanitizer nearby during the distribution of Holy Communion for use if necessary.

B.) LITURGICAL MUSIC

1. Congregational singing resumes. Choirs resume. Cantors return to the nave.
2. Hymnals are back in the pews for your use.

C.) THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION / CONFESSIONS

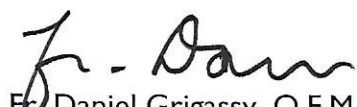
For those who are vaccinated, masks are not required for the celebration of the sacrament. The confessor may wear a mask if he thinks it is necessary. Since our Reconciliation Room is a confined space, please wear a mask if you have not been fully vaccinated to protect yourself and the confessor. If the usual hour on Saturdays from 1:00-2:00 PM, is not good for you, call the Parish Office to make an appointment.

D.) OTHER SACRAMENTS

1. Baptism of Infants takes place on the second Sunday of each month at the 11:30 AM Mass. Other options are possible. The Rite is always public, never private, even outside Mass.
2. Communal celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick are discouraged for now. In September we will reevaluate this recommendation. Anointings continue in hospitals and nursing homes. The priest wears a mask and the protocols of the hospital or institution are observed.
3. Funerals and Weddings are celebrated according to the norms for the celebration of Mass.

In the next months we hope to reinvigorate all our ministries. Please consider taking up a new ministry! Stay tuned for more news on our website – www.stbonspaterson.org. We pray that the grace of Christ may raise us up and make all things new!

Peace and all good for you and your families!



Fr. Daniel Grigassy, O.F.M.
Pastor