



SAINT KATERI PARISH
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Fr. Vidal R. Gonzales, Jr.
Pastor

My Dear Parish Family:

It's been months now since we received a mandate from the State Government about the temporary closing of churches. Many people and parishioners were saddened with this news. The COVID19 pandemic brought panic to every individual, not only here in the United States but also in other parts of the world.

Thanks be to God - the suspension of Masses is lifted beginning with a Vigil Mass on Saturday, June 13, 2020, The Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ. However, parishioners must practice appropriate social distancing – by remain at least 6 feet from other people, and wearing a mask--as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention – CDC).

As we prepare for the reopening of our church, here are the guidelines we must follow:

WEEKEND MASSES:

The total number of people present cannot exceed 50 people. At Saint Kateri, we can only accommodate 50 people in every Mass celebration inside the church as established by the Governor, "Indoor gatherings would be permitted at whichever number is lower -- 25 percent capacity or 50 people."

Below is the Scheduled Masses:

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm

SUNDAY: 7:30 am. ; 9:30 am. ; 12 noon ; 6:00 pm.

Our live streaming of Mass will continue during weekend Masses at 9:30am.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT WEEKDAY MASS (Monday-Friday)

Mass will start at 8:15 am, as usual. The church will be open until 7:00pm to the faithful for individual private prayer, personal devotions (like praying a rosary), and private personal adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. Face covering / masks and social distancing are necessary for silent private prayers.

If you are coming for a silent private prayer, please help us by maintaining the cleanliness of our church. Disinfectant spray and towels are available in the vestibule of the church for you to spray and wipe the area where you were seated before leaving the church. Thank you.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT SUNDAY MASS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The following are some very important points to remember as we reopen the church to help curb the spread of the virus, most especially during weekend Masses:

- As you drive into the parking lot, a staff member or parishioner will be there to greet you and count the number of people attending Mass. We must adhere to the guideline of 50 parishioners at each Mass. Please stay in your car until signaled to enter the church. A Welcomer will show you to your seat.
- Before stepping out of your car, put on your facemask and apply your own hand sanitizer. Ages 3 and over are required to wear a mask. If by chance you forget your mask, disposable masks are available in the vestibule for you. Please, ask our ushers/Welcomers. They are happy to assist you.
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- As you approach and enter the church, please observe good social distancing practices by staying 6 feet apart from your fellow parishioners (other than your immediate family members).
- There will be one entrance into the church. That door will be open for you to avoid touching the door knob or the handle.
- We strongly recommend using the hand sanitizer located in the vestibule. You are also encouraged to bring your own, pocket-sized hand sanitizer especially for use before Holy Communion.
- You will see a sign by the door of the main church reading "WAIT TO BE SEATED." Our ushers will be there to assist you to a seat.
- As you enter the main church, you will find all pews marked for you to sit and maintain social distancing. You will notice that we have roped off every other pew and have carefully marked the pews with blue tape as a visual aid for maintaining social distancing. We kindly ask you that as you enter the pew, you move closest to the center of the pew as possible to allow room for additional worshipers.
- Family/households, you can sit together. No social distancing within your own family.
- Restroom use will be for emergencies only. Touch-free Sanitizer Dispensers and Touch-Free paper towel dispensers are available in every restroom of the church. Only one person at a time may occupy the restroom.
- Our parish still needs your financial support. Note that the collection basket will not be passed around during Mass. If you wish to make a donation, you may do so online (<https://saintkateri.org/electronic-giving>) or place your offering in the blue boxes as you exit the Mass. May God graciously bless your generosity.

- As you exit the church building, we kindly ask that you make your way promptly to your vehicle and avoid lingering on the parish property.
- Those who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, i.e. those sixty (60) years of age and over, and especially those with one or several underlying medical conditions (a high temperature, for example), should follow Mass at home via live stream or television until all restrictions are removed.
- A person with cough or fever of any kind, or other symptoms of illness, should stay at home to protect the health of others.

PROCEDURE FOR DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION TO THE FAITHFUL AT MASS

Only Fr. Vidal will distribute communion during the Mass. Deacon and Lay ministers are not to distribute communion at this time.

Communicants: As you come up receiving the Body of Christ you will be guided by our ushers/Welcomers. You will notice signs and orange tape on the floor, please follow them. This will help prevent close contact with other parishioners.

Parishioners are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer of your own to use before the reception of Holy Communion.

There will be **3** communion stations: One in the middle aisle, one by the piano, and one by the tabernacle.

The distribution of the Precious Blood from the chalice is discontinued for the foreseeable future.

Communion in the hands:

Fr. Vidal will wear a facemask when giving communion.

I strongly encourage the faithful to receive **Holy Communion in the hand**.

When presenting yourself for communion, continue to wear your face mask or face covering.

After receiving the Blessed Host by the hands, the faithful step aside, **lower/lift** his/her face covering, consume the Host, **lift/lower** your face covering and return to your seat.

Communion on the tongue:

It should be noted, at this time, the CDC and the WHO has recommended against distributing and receiving communion on the tongue. In response to our divine law to love our brothers and sisters, and out of special concerns for the vulnerable and the priest, communicants who normally receive on the tongue are respectfully asked to make

a sacrifice of personal reference. They are asked to prayerfully consider the reverent of act or receiving in the hand, a practice which practice which is attested to in our Catholic Tradition since the ancient church.

Those who wish to receive on the tongue are asked to receive after all those who have received in the hand, and too, receive only from the priest.

Upon reaching the priest, communicant should lower his/her face covering, receive the Blessed Host, and immediately return his/her face covering.

If, by chance, a communicant's saliva comes in contact with Fr. Vidal, he should immediately stop and use the sanitizer.

Instructions and demonstration will be given before receiving communion.

FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Every Saturday from 4:00pm. – 4:45pm.

Please call the office or email me for an appointment. Wear facemask and observe social distancing.

Thank you for all your prayers and for your financial support to our church. I'm very grateful to our loving Father to be the pastor of such a compassionate, generous, faithful and amazing parish. I am looking forward seeing you all face to face celebrating the Eucharist and other sacraments inside our church. Thank you for your cooperation.

Your pastor,

Father Vidal Gonzales, Jr.

FOR USHERS:

Ushers/volunteers wearing masks and gloves will be available to welcome parishioners to church, maintaining six feet of social distance, directing parishioners toward your seating.

Only one entrance/door will be open for each building. However, all doors will allow for egress in case of emergency.

Ushers will ensure that everyone age 3 and older are wearing a face covering.

Ushers will seat parishioners according to social distance protocols starting from the front of the church and moving toward the rear of the church.

Ushers will ensure the total number of people present for the liturgy does not exceed 50 people (including the Priest, Music Minister, Lector, Welcomers, etc.)

(Ushers should be prepared to communicate and act how to turn away parishioners when the gathering capacity for Mass is met.) This will be covered in our training session on Friday June 12th at 7PM.

Remember, there is to be NO offertory procession.

Collection baskets are to be placed in appropriate places to receive the offering of the faithful. I would suggest that the baskets for offertory be placed in the vestibule of the church by the baptismal font and by the door of the daily chapel. Parishioners can drop their donations in the basket.

To avoid crowding at the end of Mass, ushers/welcomers will dismiss parishioners one pew at a time to avoid crowding. There will be 3 exits: the side main door of the Church, by the baptismal font (glass doors) and by the daily chapel (by Fr. Pat's garden).

Ushers will wear gloves when placing the offerings into the plastic security bags mandated through Diocesan Collection Procedures. I would appreciate it if the ushers or any volunteers can help sanitizing the pews by spraying with disinfectant formula.

FOR LECTORS:

There is no need for an assigned lector to go to the priest's sacristy to read or to practice reading. The lectionary will be on the lectern before the Mass. The lector may go there directly for practice reading. The lector (if he/she wishes) can join the entrance and recessional procession with social distancing.

For now, only one lector is allowed during Mass. This is to avoid having contact with saliva on the microphone and lectionary while reading.

During the proclamation of the reading(s), lector may remove his/her face covering to proclaim the reading but should return the face covering after he/she concludes the readings.

FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

There is no need for the Eucharistic Ministers to prepare the Liturgical Vessels during Mass. Fr. Vidal himself will take care of it. What we need during mass are the Chalice, cruets, and ciboria only. No more cups, since there is no distribution of Jesus' Blood during communion.

Fr. Vidal will take care the ciboria from the tabernacle.

FOR CHOIR

There is to be no choir. Singing, especially in close proximity to others, may increase the risk of viral spread.

I would suggest that during mass Marc or the cantor will sing the Entrance, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and Recessional only. The rest will be recited.

If there is a cantor. A cantor may remove his/her face covering when he/she is singing but returns the face covering after he/she concludes singing. Cantor will not go up to the lectern (Ambo) for the responsorial psalm. He/she will just stay at the "music stand".

FOR ALTAR SERVERS

Parish Altar Servers should not assist at the altar until a later date when the risk of contagion is further ameliorated.

FOR COUNTERS:

Collections will be counted in the usual way as previously done. Counters wear Masks and gloves and maintain social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be provided for you.