



# Pastor's Message

April 29, 2020

What will be our experience when the parish doors have begun to be opened again so we can gather for Sunday mass? I am very much unsure. I believe you may be too.

Obviously, we'll have to wait for our ecclesiastical and civil officials to provide quite specific directives about it. Nevertheless, the subsequent are simple thoughts about what may occur in the beginning, based on what I have experienced in society during these past weeks of pandemic. I presume you have your own speculations concerning the same.

- Upon arrival to church, many, if not all, may be wearing a mask and gloves as protective wear from threatening health dangers.
- Possibly, the holy water fonts at the entrance will remain empty.
- Only every third pew may be available for use, so safe social distancing can be followed.
- The priest may be wearing a mask and gloves. As will the lector and ushers.
- Perhaps, only one altar server to avoid crowding in the sanctuary of the church.
- The offertory part of the mass could be eliminated. Will there be a collection, the handling of money? Is it possible, the bread and wine for mass will be already on the altar?
- A nod of the head will be the extent of our exchange of peace to one another.
- Reception of Holy Communion. Six feet apart on the communion line may be necessary. The priest wearing mask and gloves, while the communicant wearing the same. Possibly, only reception by hand will be permitted, for the Body of Christ only.
- Unfortunately, less fellowship among parishioners after mass ends.
- All the pews utilized will have to be wiped down with disinfectant in preparation for the next mass.

I truly don't know if the abovementioned will occur for certain. But, we ought to be prepared for one or more of them, so we are not uncomfortably surprised by what we see or hear in church when we are able to get back into it. Nevertheless, whatever directives come to us, we'll follow faithfully.

In spite of it all, I am certain of one factor. We will be happy to be back in our parish church, together again, worshipping and receiving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the sacred words we hear from Holy Scripture and the Most Blessed Sacrament of Holy Eucharist!

Peace,  
Fr. Marc