

Moving Forward: Ministering to the Faithful in a Pandemic

Thank you to all of our Liturgical Ministers who have shared their gifts and talents over time as they have offered their services to the parish during Masses. As we move forward in opening the church for Masses I want to state from the beginning that if you are not comfortable with the new liturgical guidelines, or if you feel uncomfortable ministering during this time of pandemic, you do not have to serve as a liturgical minister at this time. For this reason, all liturgical ministry positions are being filled for each Mass by volunteering either by email or calling the parish office. This includes both weekday and weekend Masses. All previous schedules are no longer in effect. This includes the weekday schedule of lectors.

Mass times are:

Monday – Friday, May 25 – 29 will be at 9:30am and 7:00pm

Pentecost Sunday: May 30, Saturday 4:30pm

May 31, Sunday 8:30am and 11:30am

All Masses will be held in the church and not the chapel. The doors of the church will be open 20 minutes prior to Mass and be locked 15 minutes following each Mass. The Sunday Mass schedule has been changed to allow for cleaning between Masses.

ROLES OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

SERVERS: When we first start back servers will not be needed for Masses. We will slowly reintroduce servers as weeks go by.

LECTORS: Only one (1) Lector will be needed for the weekend Masses and daily Masses. On the weekend, the Lector will not be in the opening procession and will read both readings and the Responsorial Psalm. Because many people will not have the readings in their hands, the Lector needs to be clear, loud, and proclaim the Word of God with meaning. You will not be doing the petitions at this time.

The weekday Lector will proclaim the one reading and the Responsorial Psalm.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Only two (2) Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are needed at both weekend and weekday Masses. EM's must wear masks and gloves. Communicants will be instructed to follow the 6' social distancing which will be clearly marked in the aisles. Hand sanitizer will be at each communion station if needed. Specific directives will be given prior to Mass.

GREETERS: Two (2) Greeters are needed for the weekend Masses and one (1) for the weekday Mass. All Greeters must wear masks and gloves. Greeters will be handing out worship aids which will be disposed of after each Mass. While serving as a Greeter there is to be no gatherings or socializing as people come in. After people enter and receive a greeting and worship aid they are to enter the main part of the church where they will be directed to a seat by an usher. The cry room (family room) will not be available for anyone and the St. Joseph room and coat room will also not be open.

USHERS: Three (3) Ushers are needed for each weekend Mass and if possible to have several available for weekday Masses. Ushers must wear masks and if they are passing out bulletins, gloves as

well. The role of the Usher will be completely different as Ushers will now escort people to their seats ensuring that people only use the pews specifically marked. People will be asked to sit in marked spaces in the pews. There are no exceptions to seating except families are permitted to sit together maintaining the 6' distance with others. At communion time Ushers will assist by letting row by row come forward to communion. The center aisle will have only one line so people will be alternating between sides. The floor will be marked as to the proper distancing while coming forward to communion. There will be no collection or offertory procession. A basket will be placed by the baptismal font for people to put their collection donation. Glass doors will be open at all times and the outside doors will be propped open as people enter and exit. At the conclusion of Mass each row will be dismissed row by row allowing for people to exit the Gathering Area before the next row is dismissed. Bulletins will be handed out at that time as people leave. The cry room is not available to use and the coat room and St. Joseph room will not be open.

MASS COORDINATORS: When we first start back, this ministry will not be needed. As time goes on this role may be reintroduced as needed.

If you are willing to minister at a Mass during the week of May 25-31 please email or call the parish office.

More directives will be given as we continue to work out the particulars.