

#3517

The flowers on the Main Altar this weekend have been designated by Jeanette Devine in memory of Pauline M. Devine.

# Mass Intentions

Saturday	Living & deceased members of Mark S. Smith, Sr. family
Sunday	Living & deceased members of Raymond & Gladys Staub family The People of the Parish
Monday	Earl & Ethel
Tuesday	Joe, Stella, & Bobbi Miller
Wednesday	Charles Buhl
Thursday	Richard P. Smith
First Friday	Joseph Neiderer
Saturday	Sarah Long
Sunday	The People of the Parish Living & deceased members of DCHS Class of 1956

### The Readings for the Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday are:

**First Reading:** Acts 2:1-11

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

**The Gospel:** John 20:19-23

Please pray for our Parishioner Rose Murren who went home to be with the Lord this week. Pray for her family too as they deal with their sudden loss.

Our most heartfelt thanks for those who are mailing or dropping off their envelopes! There is a box on the front screened in porch of the parish office if you would like to drop off envelopes or other communications.

**As defined by the Governor, Adams County entered the yellow phase on May 22.** Under the rules promulgated by Bishop Gainer, subject to the pastor's discretion, Sacred Heart may resume public Masses during the weekend of May 30-31 provided that we can comply with the rules for maintaining distance and sanitizing.

The Bishop's rules make significant alterations to what we are used to. They may seem to go overboard. If that is the case, then all will be able to avoid contamination. Remember that we are dealing with a public health threat that even the medical experts do not fully understand. A sampling of the various news stations shows how much the medical professionals who are interviewed disagree. In our situation too much protection is better than too little.

The Diocese has issued a dozen pages of guidelines. Yogi Berra once said something along these lines: in theory, theory and practice are close but in practice, they really aren't.



First of all, anyone who is sick, has a fever, or flu-like symptoms must stay home. Anyone who has tested positive must stay home until cleared by a doctor. The Bishop has extended the dispensation from attending Masses of obligation. If anyone is in doubt, stay home. If anyone has an underlying condition that places them at increased risk, stay home. Practically speaking, if I (the only priest here) am exposed, I am to be quarantined for 14 days meaning that the rectory office would not be available since it is the first floor of my home and that all Masses and sacraments must cease until I am cleared by a doctor.

The Basilica is difficult to use during the yellow phase The Diocese indicated that seating would be limited to one-third of capacity and that everyone should maintain a distance of six feet on all sides; and, that the church building must be cleaned and sanitized after each Mass. In the church, that would mean the pews, the kneelers and the backs of the pews that people tend to lean on (in addition to door handles and other items that are commonly touched). That would mean after the Saturday Vigil Mass and between the 7:30 and 10:00 Masses on Sunday. Hand sanitizing stations must be set up at every entrance. Since we really don't know how long it would take to clean the church after every Mass of Obligation we are going to move slowly until we are able to get cleaning under control. It is easier to add Masses than to go gangbusters at the beginning, figure out that we have a problem, and then try to cut back.

**Our first public Mass will be on Sunday, May 31.** There will be one Sunday Mass for the first couple of weeks: **Sunday at 10:00** and that the Mass will be held in the **Social Hall.** These are the advantages:

1. One entrance only;
2. The entrance has a ramp for those who need it;
3. Restrooms are available;
4. The seats may be set up at the proper distance in advance;
5. The hall has air conditioning and a sound system;
6. No kneelers therefore less to clean.
7. 90 seats are available in the hall while only 72 seats would be available in the church.

The hall will be open 30 minutes before Mass and be closed 5 minutes after the distribution of Holy Communion. **Seating is available on a first come, first serve basis. Masks are required.** No missalette will be available; people will be encouraged to bring what they have at home such as Magnificat or the Word Among Us.

There will be a basket set up at the entrance/exit for any envelopes and offerings. Holy Communion will be distributed directly after Mass once I have had a chance to sanitize and put on a mask. The faithful will be able to lower their mask only for receiving Holy Communion. There should be no socializing after Mass in either the Hall or the parking lot.

For the time being, the Church will remain closed until I can obtain the supplies that we need to limit access. The church needs to be sanitized daily after any time that it is open. The public will not have access to votive candles because the candles are lit from a common taper or book of matches. Candles will be lit upon request similar to the method for requesting Masses (candle offering envelopes have been ordered).

Since the confessionals do not allow for proper distancing and ventilation, confessions will be heard by appointment until further notice. Daily Masses will not resume right away. The parish office will remain closed; however, anything requiring attention may be communicated by telephone or placed in the box that is available on the rectory porch. Holy water will be available in a week or two (bottles are on order).

As always, thank you for your patience and let us pray for one another.

Fr. Howard

Praise we the Father and the Son  
and Holy Spirit with them One;  
and may the Son on us bestow  
the gifts that from the Spirit flow.

### Next week is Trinity Sunday

