



A Letter from Fr. John

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each of you. It is great joy to announce that Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller has issued a new decree for the entire Archdiocese on 5/12/20.

The Archbishop continues to closely monitor information from the CDC, Governor Abbott, President Trump, and other expert resources. In conjunction with Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette and his senior staff, they will continue to provide critical updates to all pastors of the Archdiocese on a regular basis. The new decree takes effect on 5/19/20. So, how will the new decree affect us as a parish family?

The new decree indicates that we will move from a total of 10 individuals attending Mass to 25% of the seating capacity of our worship space. Based on the new 25% seating capacity request, our calculations indicate that we will now be capable of having up to 100 persons join us for both weekday and weekend Masses.

Your health and safety continue to be one of my greatest concerns as we begin gathering again as a parish family for the celebration of the Eucharist. There will be numerous modifications made to the celebration of Mass in order to maintain a safe environment for all. The parish staff will send an additional email next week informing you of these temporary changes. The pandemic is new to us all, and so I ask you to please be patient as we begin to get back to some sense of normalcy.

The Archbishop has reiterated that if you are over the age of 65 or if you are not feeling well, you should refrain from attending Mass. The Archbishop's new decree has extended his dispensation to folks that fall into these categories.

I, nor the parish staff can do this alone. We need your support and assistance. Due to the various temporary changes, we will require approximately 10 ushers at each Mass. So, if you are under the age of 65 and are able bodied, I am reaching out to you for help. WE NEED YOU! We are a very beautiful and unique community, which is infused with the great gift of service. I ask that you earnestly pray on how you or your family can help during this difficult time of the pandemic. Your church and fellow parishioners need you and I am prayerfully seeking your assistance.

We will be temporarily modifying all Mass times in order to ensure that proper disinfecting and cleaning can occur between Masses. Again, your health and safety are paramount to me. In order to make it fair for all parishioners, we will be using a "ticket" system to determine which 100 people will be admitted to our various weekend liturgies.

Next week, a detailed letter will be provided, as well as placing information on the parish website and bulletin. The letter will explain how we will temporarily be worshipping together as a parish family during this time of the pandemic, as well as how you will be able to obtain a ticket for one of the weekend liturgies.

I am also working collaboratively with Ethan, our Director of Religious Education to complete this year's reception of the sacraments. As of this date, all of our RCIA participants have been fully initiated into the

church. What a blessing! Ethan and I are in the final planning stages for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We are also planning our annual spring graduation Mass for our high school youth. The Faith Formation department will provide more information shortly.

In closing, I am elated as to how well this community has done during the pandemic and remain in awe of your generous tithing. What an amazing parish! What a giving parish! What a remarkable group of Catholics! Please be mindful to not let your guard down. We do not want to become the next Mason. So, please continue your social distancing and sheltering in place. You all have done an exceptional job and I could not be any prouder of each of you. Stay safe and stay healthy my friends. Please look for next week's letter and may we be ever mindful to continue praying for one another and those affected by COVID-19.

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. John

*Decree Opening Masses
- ENGLISH*

*Decree Opening Masses
- SPANISH*

*Guidelines for
Reopening Mass to the
Public*

*Guidelines for
Reopening Mass to the
Public - Spanish*