

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

As part of loving one another during this pandemic, it should go without saying that **when any of us does not feel well we should stay away from public Mass** - participating instead through www.pwc.church, CatholicTV, etc.

While Jesus continues to remind us to “Be Not Afraid,” you may have heard that both Plainville & Wrentham have been classified “red” by the Commonwealth because of virus transmission rates.* As a result, **the archdiocese is requiring us to take the temperatures of everyone who comes to church**. Our Greeters have been instructed to use non-touch forehead thermometers in addition to sanitizing your hands. **If anyone shows signs of a fever** (which health officials define as 100 degrees or above), the Greeters have been instructed to discreetly tell them we are concerned they may be sick, and **we ask them to go home** and contact their doctor for guidance. **Please plan to arrive to Mass about 5 minutes earlier** than you usually do to allow time for temperature taking.

* Officials in both of our towns have assured residents there is *not* a major outbreak: higher rates are tied to one “cluster” in Wrentham and a few families in Plainville. (In smaller towns, it doesn’t take many cases to move our classification to red.) Still, they encourage us to take precautions and be diligent.

Doors will be unlocked 20 minutes before Mass instead of the usual 15 minutes. If there is a line to enter the church, please wait patiently while using the six-foot lines on the ground to **keep safe distances**. We trust this added measure will only be needed for a short time - as soon as we exit the “red” category, our parishes will return to taking temperatures only of volunteers and staff.

We are so grateful to hear from so many of you that you feel safe coming to church and spiritually supported by our collaborative parishes. Please know that those who are not able to be with us physically are still in our prayers and very much part of our faith communities!

Also in this newsletter:

- Second Collection this Weekend: Clergy Health & Retirement Trust
- “Senior-Friendly” 8am Mass starting Sep. 27
- Faith Formation for Children and Youth Updates
- Justice According to the Logic of the Kingdom of God

Special “Second Collection”

This weekend you will have the opportunity to support our priests through the special September collection benefitting the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust (CHRT). CHRT offers programs for the health and wellness of all our priests in good standing. This special collection is a primary source of funding for these programs.

To give now go to: clergytrust.org

Healthier priests means stronger communities for all. Help us care for our priests in good standing by supporting the special September collection.

Senior-Friendly 8am Mass for our Collaborative Starting Sep. 27

The attendance at the 10am has been at or near capacity several times recently, so with the help of parishioners as Lectors and Hospitality Volunteers, our collaborative will be adding an 8am Mass at St. Martha starting next weekend, September 27.

To help all to feel safe worshipping with us, **we are trying to promote this as a Mass for seniors** (much like some grocery stores reserve their first open hour for them). **For now, we ask all parishioners to respect this as a Mass for seniors and those with health vulnerabilities**. If younger people in good health do attend, ushers will ask them to sit toward the back of the church.

Faith Formation for Children (Gr. 1-6) and Youth (Gr. 7 - Confirmation)

Parents should watch their emails for updates on the programs for each of their children's grades. Recent updates have been sent for Children (grades 1-6) regarding pickup of materials) and Confirmation (regarding Mass and online sessions starting for Confirmation II starting Oct. 4). An update will be sent soon for Middle School students, whose program will start with Noon Mass and 7pm online session on Oct. 25.

Justice According to the Logic of the Kingdom of God

Click to read [the column by Fr. Lambert Nieme this week](#), based on the Sunday Gospel of laborers in God's vineyard - a parable that challenges us to see things differently than the world sees them.

May God bless and keep you always,
Fr. Joe