

The Celebration of Mass to resume June 13 and 14

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, public health officials in New Hampshire have modified restrictions on churches and houses of worship. With the approval of Bishop Libasci, we will resume the celebration of Mass on a limited basis at Saints Mary and Joseph Parish, **beginning the weekend of June 13-14**.

We want to make the resumption of the Eucharist as safe as possible for everyone under these unusual and difficult circumstances. The protocols we have put in place follow the guidelines provided by the state and the diocese. The emphasis is on **safety, social distancing** and **sanitization**.

Beginning on June 13, Mass will be celebrated at our usual Mass times:

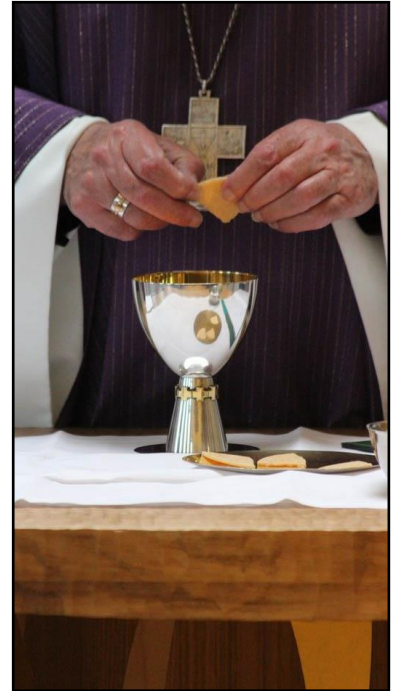
Saturday at 4 p.m. at Mary Queen of Peace

Sunday at 7:30 a.m. at Saint Joseph

9:30 a.m. at Mary Queen of Peace

11 a.m. at Mary Queen of Peace

5 p.m. at St. Joseph



To provide as safe and clean an environment as possible, we ask those coming to Mass to observe the following:

- For our planning and preparation, parishioners are asked to contact the parish office by Noon on Friday (June 12) to let us know what Mass they would like to attend that weekend (893-8661 – *please DO NOT leave a message* – e-mail: officeadmin@saintsmaryandjoseph.org).
- Parishioners must wear masks from the moment they leave their car until they return. Masks will be provided for those without.
- Ushers will accompany worshipers to one of the places marked in the church. To avoid contact with others, seating will begin at the front of the church and continue to the back. Once all the marked places have been taken, no one else will be admitted to the church.
- Hymnals have been removed from the churches. A cantor will lead the acclamations, but there will be no community singing.
- **Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass.** After the Celebrant receives Communion, he will immediately offer the Prayer after Communion and the Blessing.
At Mary Queen of Peace: The Celebrant and a minister of Communion will take the Blessed Sacrament to the gathering space and distribute Communion to the community.

At Saint Joseph: The Celebrant will distribute Communion to those seated on the tabernacle side in front of the tabernacle; parishioners will then leave by the side door. The minister will distribute Communion to those sitting on the Baptistry side at the rear of the church, with parishioners exiting by the front doors of the church.

To observe safe social distancing, please follow the directions of the ushers (*the order: first in, last out*). After receiving Communion, parishioners are to return to their cars and depart. ***Parishioners may not return to the church for private prayer after Mass.***

- The church will be sanitized immediately after Mass.

We are committed to following these protocols for the safety of our parish community, our liturgical ministers and our clergy. ***To this end, parishioners who are not able or unwilling to follow these guidelines will be asked by ushers to leave.***

[According to the bishop's directives, the faithful may receive the Eucharist either in the hand or on the tongue, and that preference will be honored. After placing the host on a recipient's tongue, the minister will stop to wash and sanitize his/her hands before continuing. For the sake of the health and safety of the minister, as well as the time required to sanitize, we ask those who usually receive on the tongue to consider receiving Communion in the hand during the pandemic.]

For those who are unable to return to Mass, we will continue to "Livestream" ALL weekend and all daily Masses from Mary Queen of Peace.

Daily Mass has resumed at both Mary Queen of Peace and Saint Joseph: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays at **7:15 a.m. at Saint Joseph** and **9 a.m. at MQP** (*Mass is NOT celebrated at either church on Wednesdays*).

I would like to express the gratitude of the parish community to all who worked so hard and gave so generously of their time to make our live streaming of the Mass and Holy Communion the past two Sundays work so well and who are now working hard to prepare the church and liturgies for these first Sundays of re-opening.

While this is far from the ideal celebration of the Eucharist, it is a first positive step forward as we resume our life as a parish community and celebrate our identity as the people of God. We can all expect that changes and adaptations will be made along the way, as necessary. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

I look forward to welcoming you again to the table of the Lord.

In Christ,

Father Vincent