

Update to St. Mary's, St. Philip's and Sacred Heart – Friday, May 22

Though we do not have an exact date, the big news is that our churches will be opening soon. This is good news but it also presents us with several questions:

-- Will our churches be ready for all the restrictions? -- Do we feel safe to come Sunday Mass? -- Will people abide by the rules of wearing a mask and keeping distance? As one person wrote in a recent article:

“I thought I’d be elated to hear that Mass was returning, but my wife and I are both torn. Despite missing the liturgy, despite not being fed the bread of life for more than two months, it’s unlikely that we’ll return that first weekend. Perhaps we’re being overly cautious, but there are so many questions lingering: Will our fellow parishioners wear the masks? Will our friends, who have also longed for the Eucharist, pack the church? Will there be protocols in place for the reception of Communion? Is it safe for our 5-year-old? Our 3-year-old? Our 1-year-old?”

These are all valid questions. But just as valid are the feelings of those who have thought through these questions and have decided that they’re comfortable taking the necessary precautions in order to return to the Lord’s table. How and when we return is going to be a personal decision for us all. Let’s not judge, because there isn’t a road map out of this; we truly are in uncharted territory, and we’re all doing our best to survive”.

- Minnesota Dioceses are planning to open for public worship beginning the day after Memorial Day (May 25). This means, **if ready with restriction protocols we will go back to our regular weekend schedule on May 30-31.** Parish teams are working on plans and all that we need to do get ready for and to manage attendance at Mass with restrictions. More info will be sent next week.
- Masks – one thing that is required at this time in the protocols is that all except young children must wear a mask. This is to protect others more than ourselves. Work on getting a mask.
- Live-stream Masses will continue on Face-book at 10 AM on Sundays as many will not be able go out for Mass. Another option for some is to participate in a weekday Mass which will have less participants.
- Men of Sacred Heart should try to keep open either Wednesday or Thursday evening (May 26-27) as will be stripping, cleaning and waxing the church floors those evenings. The KC’s will set up scheduling but **all men** are asked to help if able.
- Pentecost in 9 days – Today is the beginning of the novena to the Holy Spirit. One novena focused on the fruits of the Holy Spirit and sainthood can be found at: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-to-the-holy-spirit> You can also take part in a Life in the Spirit Seminar on-line May 24-30 at: <https://www.thearkandthedoveworldwide.org/en/>

Victim/Survivor Support Group

The Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis is offering a monthly online support group for all victim/survivors of clergy sexual abuse, or any sexual abuse. These monthly meetings will be held via Zoom on **Monday** evenings from **6:30-8:00pm**. The Archdiocese has an account with Zoom and makes it safe. Once everyone is in the meeting, it is secured so no one else has access to it. If you are interested, please email Paula Kaempffer, Outreach Coordinator for Restorative Justice and Abuse Prevention at kaempfferp@archspm.org. She will send you a link for the meeting with the password. Circle rules will be used so there is an order where one person speaks at a time. What is said in the group, stays in the group. Participants have the option to attend and listen. All victim/survivors are welcome, even those residing outside the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis. Please contact Paula with questions or concerns. In addition to email, she can be reached at 651-291-4429. Please know you are valued and are dear to us! The Diocese of Crookston Victim Assistance Coordinator can be reached at: 218-281-7895.

- Our sympathy to the family and friends of +Ray Blazek from St. Mary's Parish who died this past Wednesday. His funeral arrangements are still pending.
- Pam Terry (Irene Schulz's daughter) is dealing with a cancerous tumor that is too close to her heart for an operation so is doing chemotherapy – Pray for her. Irene is in the Warroad Nursing Center is not doing too well either it seems.

Have a blessed Memorial Day weekend and congratulations to all the high school and college/technical school graduates!

Come Holy Spirit! -- Blessings! --- Fr. John

PS --- Some of you noted that you were not able to open the links on the mailings from the bishop. That is because the bishop's material was a pdf file and I sent it to you as a pdf file. You cannot directly open a link from a pdf of a pdf. In such cases you can copy the link into your web browser and it will work from there. I learn lots of things everyday whether I want to learn them or not.