

Important Update to Sacred Heart, St. Philip's and St. Mary's Parishioners – Wed. May 28

Good News! Along with most other churches in the state we are preparing to be open for public Masses at the regular Mass times this weekend but with quite a number regulations.

1. Following state directives we are to keep the number gathered at 25% of our rated capacity.

- For **Roseau** our capacity is around 246 so 62 persons and with added gathering space we could go to **85** for 25% capacity.
- For **Badger** the capacity is 125 in the church proper with some room in the hall so we could go to **45-50** for 25% capacity.
- For **Falun** our capacity is around 100 with room for a few more at the back of church and entrance area we could go to around **30** for 25% capacity.
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2. We expect that quite a number of parishioners over age 65 will be cautious to expose themselves to possible infection with the corona virus and will stay home and some will be going to the lake on weekends, etc. so numbers might not get too high, but if we exceed our limit we might have to ask some to attend a different Mass. .

We will continue to live-stream the Mass (now it will be at 10:30 a.m.) and with obligation to attend Sunday Mass still removed, parishioners may elect to continue watching through the internet or may come to a weekday Mass when there will be less people in attendance. We are hoping for lower number this weekend until we get the new system worked out so if you are unsure about your safety in coming to Mass at this time that would work well for us.

Those over age 65 are strongly encourage not to attend especially if they have underlying medical issue.

3. If you feel ill or someone in your household is ill – you should please stay home.

4. You are encouraged to wear a mask for Mass but are not required to do so. However, we encourage you to wear a mask for the safety of others. Wearing a mask is above all for the protection of others and we should be concerned about those whose health might be fragile or those who might bring the corona virus home to others whose health might be fragile.

5. Parents should be sure to speak with young children about social distancing before coming to Mass. Let them know that things will be different. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2.

6. Hand sanitizer will be available at the church entrances.

7. Two out of every three pews will be marked or taped off so people do not sit too close other than with those of their own household. Therefore, we ask that you follow the usher's directions about where to sit so that social distancing will be maintained and seating will be able to accommodate the full number allowed for each parish. You will see signs and receive other reminders to keep 6 foot distancing throughout the Mass between all not sharing the same household. At the end of Mass, remain in your pew or chair until the ushers direct you to exit.

8. During the procession to Holy Communion you will be reminded to maintain a 6-foot distance. No will be required to come forward who does not feel comfortable doing so. There will be no sharing of the communion cup.

9. Because bathrooms will be sanitized after each use, we ask that make an effort to use the bathroom before coming to church. When using the bathroom we ask that you keep social distancing if you need to wait to enter the bathroom.

10. Pews, door handles, railings, etc. will be sanitized before and after Mass.
11. For those using envelope or donations at Mass there will be a basket for that as you enter Mass instead of passing the basket.
12. There will be no socializing with food after Mass.
13. The opening up of weekend Masses also includes allowance for celebrations of weddings, funerals, baptisms, small scripture study groups, prayer meetings (all with proper social distancing), but no social gatherings.

These are the general guidelines the bishops of Minnesota have put together with the belief that we can gather for public Masses in a safe way and minimize the risk for spreading of the virus. You can find the bishop's letter and full document for parish preparedness at:



Letter from Bishop
Hoepfner re New E



Parish
Preparedness COVID

Help is needed from parishioners at all three parishes for the following:

1. Ushers – Help keep spacing – guide people to pews when they come -- usher people when they leave row by row so that all do not try to leave at the same time -- guide people as needed for Holy Communion.
2. Set up on Saturday morning or agreed upon time -- PERT group will take care of this at Roseau – all churches need to have pews taped off and distancing marked on the floors in the aisles and in front of bathrooms – put out sanitizer stations – set up communion stations
3. Eucharistic Ministers – one needed for each Mass at Roseau and Badger – none at Falun
4. Greeters -- at Roseau and Badger
5. Cleaners and Sanitizers – before and after Mass going through the church and entrances and bathrooms, etc. and cleaning and sanitizing. This is covered at Roseau but help may be needed at Badger and Falun.
6. Man and woman to sanitize bathrooms -- if used before, during or after Mass.
7. Put up signs to remind people about distancing – not touching when greeting, etc. – need to use music stands or tripods mount the signs. We are getting some signs made at Roseau.

Persons to call about these tasks are: Peggy Swart (307-461-2614) at Badger – Patty Bennett (218-689-5870) at Falun – and the parish office (463-2441) at Roseau.

- Our sympathy to the families of +Rosie Benke (died Mon. May 25) and +Ida Novacek (died earlier this spring). +Ida's funeral Mass will be on Monday at 10 am and +Rosie's funeral Mass will be on Tuesday at 10:00 am. Both are immediate family only and will be live-streamed on the Sacred Heart Facebook page. (See parish website – roseaucatholic.org)

Blessings!

■ Fr. John – 463-2441