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## St. John Vianney Catholic Church

*"I will show you the way to heaven."  
– St. John Vianney*



May 6, 2020

### SJV Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I know that many are anticipating the next time that Masses will be public and you can attend. This is especially true regarding Gov. Holcomb's Executive Order 20-26 given on May 1, 2020 and more specifically order 14.b stating, "**In either Stage 1 or 2:** On or after May 8, 2020, religious services, including wedding ceremonies and funeral services, may continue and will no longer be subject to limits on social gatherings [...]" Please be aware that to state this order is easier than it is to implement prudently. I do believe that Gov. Holcomb is trusting religious organizations to do what is best for the common good.

Today, Bishop Timothy Doherty with the bishops in Indiana have stated the following which can be read at <https://www.dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>.

#### **Indiana's Catholic Bishops Statement for the gradual resumption of public liturgies**

*The five Catholic dioceses of the Province of Indianapolis will begin resuming public liturgies (e.g. Mass and Sacraments) by 30 May 2020, the Vigil of Pentecost, with restrictions outlined by each diocese and provided to the parishes within their respective jurisdictions. The dispensation from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays is extended throughout the State of Indiana until 15 August 2020.*

From this statement, a question arises regarding the restrictions that our diocese, Lafayette-in-Indiana, will outline for the parish. This has not yet been communicated but will be communicated in the next couple of days. In addition to the statement above, you can read Bishop Doherty's letter dated today at <https://www.dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>. You may also listen to his 3-minute video at <https://youtu.be/S08Mw-2CJqY>. There is a desire to plan for an orderly restart. Thus, the current plan is to have Mass first publicly available on Saturday, May 30.

Obviously, having the churches open will be different than it has been in the recent past since COVID-19 has not gone away and is still present. There will be social distancing occurring within the worship space. Guidelines such as the use of hand sanitizers, face masks and cleaning of the churches are forthcoming. There are different expectations that people have, and in order to best serve each other, we need to make sure that those expectations are clear. Having improper expectations can cause much further unintended distress and frustration. These expectations will be modified as best practices, experience and prudence dictates. Thus, please be patient with one another. You may feel a sense of urgency to come back to the church, but know that God is not leaving us. If you are seriously ill, you may call the emergency line at the church to receive the sacraments at 317-485-0150.

In regards to the dispensation to participate in Sunday Mass continuing until 15 August 2020, if you are sick, you are automatically dispensed from the obligation of Sunday Mass. This is true beyond the time of a pandemic (ref. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 2181). Of course, if anyone is sick, they should not be coming to the church. Please be mindful of this and the charity you are to have to your fellow neighbor.

St. John Vianney...pray for us!

In Christ, Fr. Tony Rowland

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