



# *Holy Rosary & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Churches*

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## **INSTRUCTIONS AS WE PREPARE TO REOPEN OUR CHURCHES FOR MASS**

Dear Parish Family,

June 3, 2020

As we begin to reopen our parishes, I have some important points to share with all of you. Please take a few moments to review this information.

### **Preliminary Points**

- 1. Bishop Powers continues to keep the dispensation from Mass in place**
  - a. If you are sick, please stay home
  - b. If you have concerns about your own health or medical situation, please stay home
  - c. We will continue to live-stream the 8:30 am Sunday Mass will on Facebook
- 2. We are instituting a number of new practices**
  - a. Our churches will be cleaned and key areas sanitized after every Mass
  - b. We are strongly encouraging people to wear face masks
  - c. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances of church
  - d. We will only use half our pews, based on the guidelines for social distancing
  - e. Households will sit together, maintaining a 6-foot space from other households
- 3. The celebration of Mass will look very different**
  - a. There will be no sung congregational music, all responses will be spoken
  - b. There will be no hymnals, weekly bulletins or other handouts during this time
  - c. Communion bread will be offered in the hand; the communion cup will be only for the priest
  - d. Ministries will be modified as this time, no formal liturgical ministries will be needed
  - e. People may deposit their envelope/cash in slotted box at the beginning or end of Mass
- 4. Pastoral Care to the sick and homebound is not yet ready to begin**
  - a. We need time to work with nursing homes, hospitals, and county guidelines; stay tuned
  - b. We are waiting for more direction from the Bishop's Office before we start our planning
- 5. Your patience, understanding and willingness to adjust are greatly appreciated!**
  - a. This is new territory for all of us; we are learning and discovering as we go
  - b. I ask that all of us practice charity toward one another; if you are eager to return to "normal" practices – please be kind to those who are cautious; if you are very concerned about health and safety – please be kind to those who are taking more risks
  - c. Above all: we are in this together; we need to work together as the Body of Christ

### **Timeline to Reopen for Mass**

1. Holy Rosary will reopen for Mass on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> for daily Mass at 8:30am
2. Holy Rosary will be the only church open on the weekend of June 6/7 & 13/14
  - a. Our weekend Mass schedule will be 4PM & 6PM on Saturday and 8:30AM & 10:30AM
3. We plan on having Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6PM
  - a. Daily Mass will resume on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30AM
4. Daily Mass Schedule will be: Monday @ 8:30AM; Tuesday @ 5:15PM; Wednesday @ 8:30AM; Thursday @ 8:30AM; Friday @ 8:30AM; Saturday (first of the month) 9:00AM
5. We will continue with an hour of adoration & confession on the following days: Tuesday @ 6PM; Wednesday @ 9:15AM; Friday @ 3PM; Saturday @ 2:30PM

## Ministry Changes

1. Since Mass will be very simple, there will be very few ministries required
2. Communion, Greeters, Cantors, Servers – will not be scheduled over the summer
3. I will be choosing a select group of “Ushers: to assist with:
  - a. getting people into the pews that are available, helping with the collection
  - b. pointing out sanitizer, helping with spot cleaning
  - c. Note: These folks must be in fantastic health and wear masks
4. We have also assigned a group of lead sanitizers to each mass who will help coordinate volunteers after each mass to sanitize our pews, bathrooms, doors handles, etc. after each Mass
5. We will have one lector proclaiming the readings – the schedule will be sent out by June 5th
6. My hope is to return to our standard ministries in the fall, pending COVID-19
  - a. The next couple of months will give us some time to review the number of C-19 cases in the area
  - b. This simple format to ministry will allow us to slowly work ministries back in as we are ready
7. Note: All current ministers will be asked to assess their health risks and determine for themselves if they should continue doing their ministry – please know that your health and safety matters most to me

## Practical Points

1. The seating capacity of the Church is critical for our planning for Masses, Weddings, and Funerals
  - a. We will use 25% of seating capacity as the guide for how many people we can have in our parishes and still follow decent social distancing guides
    - i. Holy Rosary 700 capacity = 175 for now
    - ii. Our Lady of Perpetual Help 300 capacity = 75 for now (with more space in parish hall)
2. Cleaning and Sanitizing are now a high priority – this **MUST BE DONE**
  - a. After every weekend Mass, Wedding and Funeral
    - i. Cleaning & Sanitizing: bathrooms, handrails, pews, doors/knobs, etc.
    - ii. Restocking hand sanitizer, soap/paper towels
  - b. After every daily Mass
    - i. Spot cleaning and sanitizing as needed
    - ii. Checking supplies
  - c. We have a crew of volunteers forming for this ministry and could use more, please contact the parish office and you will receive the proper training
3. Funeral luncheons on parish property are suspended
4. Scheduling Funerals, Weddings and other events now must include time for cleaning
5. After Mass, please respect social distancing guidelines when visiting with others especially in the entrance spaces
6. Baptisms will need to take place outside of the Mass and must be scheduled Sat. or Sun. afternoons
7. Parish groups can now regularly meet, but they must practice basic social distancing and cleanliness guidelines
8. I honestly don't know what we will do for parish dinners yet in late summer and fall. Stay tuned.

If it sounds like a lot, it is. Again, I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. May this time become a rich opportunity for all of us to become kinder, more caring and gentler with one another. We are in this together; may we work together for the common good of all.

I will be sending out more mailings in the coming weeks. Please know that you all remain in my prayers.

In Christ Through Mary,

Fr. Patrick McConnell