

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin to resume public Masses during the coronavirus pandemic, the diocese has provided guidance for doing so as safely as possible. The COVID-19 pandemic presents a serious threat to physical health. At the same time, access to divine worship and to sacraments is of high importance for the spiritual good and the overall well-being of the faithful. "The Eucharist remains the very heart of our life together." As we welcome you back to St. Francis of Assisi, the Parish will be following temporary steps from normal liturgical practice.

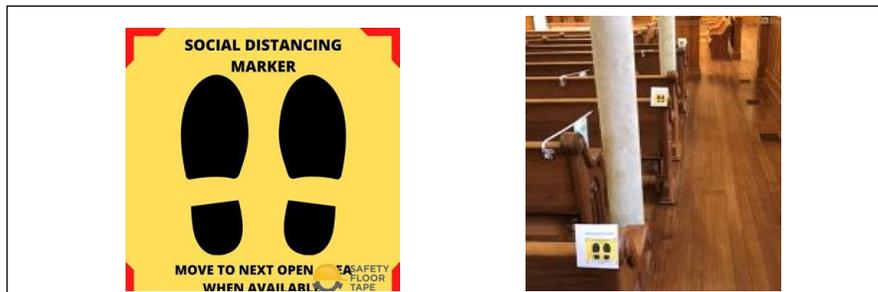
- All the faithful-especially those **susceptible to COVID, include those over the age of 70**, those who are sick, at high risk of becoming sick, and their caregivers-continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation **until September 13, 2020**.
- Baptismal fonts and holy water stoops will remain empty.
- The church will be wiped down with disinfectant before each liturgy.
- **Personal prayers in the Church can be scheduled beginning, Monday May 25, by calling 614-966-4716.**
- **Church will be opened for prayers Friday, May 29, from 11:00 am -7:00 pm (closure will be made with exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament).**
- **Public masses will begin on May 31, 2020. Wearing Red Colors is suggested.**
- **Mass of Initiation of the Elect may occur during the first 3 weeks of reopening.**
- Social Distancing **before, during, and after Mass** will be observed:
 - Other than family/household units, worshippers should be seated six feet apart in all directions.
 - Every other pew will be used for seating.



St. Francis of Assisi
Social Distancing

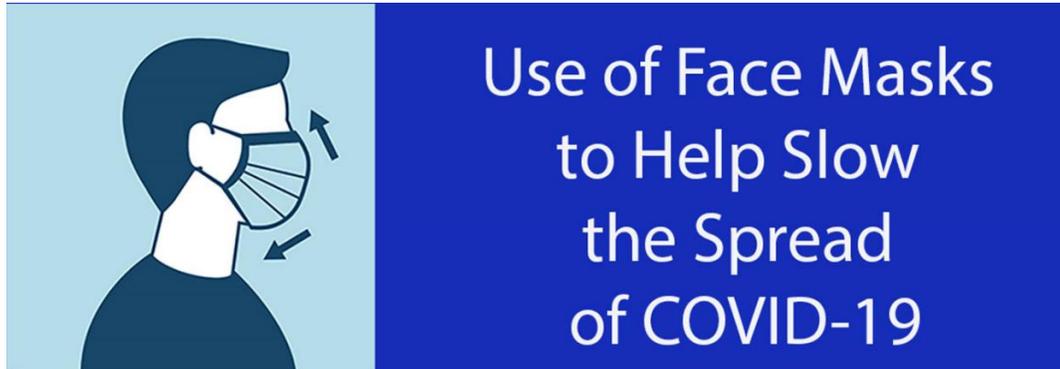
**PEW
Temporarily Closed**

- **Ushers wearing gloves and masks seat congregants.**
- Appropriate spacing between individuals in the Communion Procession shall be marked on the end of the pew. The side aisles will be used for the Communion Procession and the center aisle will be used to return to your pew.



- Eucharistic Ministers will be located on either side of the altar (where the Blood of Christ Ministers would have been positioned).
- Hospitality Sunday has been suspended until further notice.
- The choir loft will be limited to the organist and cantor.
- Liturgical Ministers to check in with the Mass Coordinator.
- Liturgical Ministers prayers in the candle room are suspended for now.

- Those in “high risk’ are advised not to serve in liturgical ministry or as a volunteer for Masses.
- Social hours are not encouraged unless social distancing and hand hygiene can be completely maintained.
- Good Hygienic Practices:
 - Those who are sick or symptomatic should stay home.
 - Face masks are highly encouraged.
 - A limited supply of face masks will be available as you enter church.



- Hand sanitizer is available as you enter church and, in the lift, (elevator).
- To avoid touching door handles, interior and exterior doors will be propped open before and after Mass-weather permitting.
- Temporary Changes to Liturgical Practices:
 - **Worship aids will not be available.**
 - Processions at the beginning and end of Mass shall be the Presider and Crucifer.
 - No Offertory procession, baskets will not be passed for the Offertory. Instead the baskets will be placed at the entrance to the church where donations can be made before and after Mass.
 - Cantor will sing the Responsorial Psalm from the choir.
 - **There will be no Sign of Peace.**
 - Holy Communion can only be received in the hand.
 - Precious Blood will be not distributed.
 - Bread and wine to be consecrated shall be kept on the credence table.
 - **The pattern or ciborium containing hosts for the faithful will be put to the side of the altar rather than in front of the priest.**
 - No Altar Servers will be used until further notice.
 - **Greeters will dismiss congregants by rows.**
 - Presider prayers will be said at a podium by the Presider Chair.
 - **YouTubeers will still participate virtually in weekly Mass.**

Understandably, everyone is anxious to return to “normalcy.” But the threat of the coronavirus is still very much with us. Social distancing, the wearing of masks, and increased cleaning procedures will be with us for an exceptionally long time. This will certainly impact the way we worship and the rituals which are a vital part of our faith. But know that “this is a time for sacrifice and to focus on the common good.”

With appreciation for the sacrifices made by so many of you during this trying time, we look forward to the return of public worship in a way that honors those sacrifices by opening in a way that is responsible and provides for the health, safety and well-being of all.

Hoping to see you soon,

Fr. Fritz & Parish Safety Committee