

Pastor's Column

Public Mass and Prayer Reopen on May 1, 2020 with 10-person limit and social distancing

Thanks. We give thanks to God and our Archbishop as we reopen Churches for Public Mass and Prayer on May 1. The Archbishop has directed us to abide by the Governor's 10-person gathering limit and social distancing requirements. The Church will be sanitized regularly as we resume services.

Dispensation; Videotaping of Mass. The Dispensation from attending Sunday Mass remains in force until things normalize, i.e. there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass for now. For those who do attend Mass, attending Weekday Mass fulfills the Sunday Mass obligation. The 8 am Masses Monday to Saturday will continue to be videotaped and uploaded on our Parish website. The 4 pm Saturday Vigil Mass will be videotaped and uploaded on our Parish website on Sunday morning.

Who Can Sign Up and How to Sign Up to Attend Mass? Due to the 10-person limit, only **Registered Parishioners** can sign up for Mass. Use the **Sign-Up Link on our website** or **Call the Parish Office** to sign up for Mass between 9 am and 2 pm on weekdays (834-0340). Leaving a phone message or sending an email does not count for sign-up until it is confirmed. Until the number of people allowed for public gatherings is increased, please sign up for only one mass every two weeks. **Sign-Up begins on Thursday, April 30.**

Mass Schedule (beginning Friday, May 1)

6:30 and 8:00 am Masses Monday through Friday; 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Masses on Saturday (Confessions, 3:00 – 3:45 PM Saturday); 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm Masses on Sunday

NOTE: The 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, 6:30 am Mass on Tuesday and 8:00 am Mass on Wednesday are reserved for those 65 years of age or older

Social Distancing Requirements at Mass:

+ **Sanitizer and Masks.** We will have hand sanitizer in Church but bring your own bottle of sanitizer to mass. Everyone must sanitize hands immediately before Communion. Parishioners must wear a mask while attending Mass except at Communion. The priests and deacons will wear a mask while distributing Communion.

+ **6 Foot Distancing.** Sit 6 feet apart from others in Church and stand 6 feet apart in the Communion line, unless you are with family members.

+ **Communion in Hand.** Communion will be given only in the hand. Open your hand; let the minister 'drop' the host into your hand; then close your hand to consume the host.

+ **No Physical Contact.** The Sign of Peace may be a bow or nod but no physical contact. When Mass ends, please do not socialize in Church.

Eucharistic Adoration. Our Church already is open daily from 10 am to 4 pm for prayer. Beginning May 1, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Main Altar in Church for Eucharistic Adoration from 10 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. There will be one committed adorer per hour. Text Dottie Watson at 504-339-4298 to sign up as a Committed Adorer; she will text you an assigned hour. Other adorers are welcome, but observe the 10-person limit and the social distancing requirements for Mass.

Our Hope. We are hopeful that we can expand the number of people attending Mass and relax some of the distancing requirements in the near future. In the meantime, thank you, Jesus!

**GOD BLESS,
FR. JOE**