



St. Jude Church

50 Edgewood Rd. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
319-390-3520

May 29, 2020

This weekend we resume public Mass at St. Jude Church. Our schedule remains the same with Mass on Saturday at 4:30 PM and Sunday at 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM. We will also resume Mass Tuesday – Friday at 7:00 AM. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in the new Community Center from 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM on Saturdays (or anytime by appointment).

In anticipation of resuming our prayer together, I want to share some things we are doing to reduce the risk to our physical health, knowing that we cannot eliminate the risk.

- Catholics in the Archdiocese of Dubuque remain dispensed from Mass. If one is elderly, has an existing medical condition, or is nervous about COVID-19, consider not attending Mass or attending a weekday Mass. If one is sick or has any symptoms of COVID-19, do NOT attend any Mass. We will live stream our Saturday 4:30 PM Mass which will be available during and after the live stream on judes.org.
- Those who attend will be asked to maintain social distancing of at least six feet from people not of their household, to wear an appropriate face mask, and to receive holy Communion in the hand.
- At St. Jude, to facilitate social distancing, we have ‘closed’ every-other pew, and within the pews available for seating, we have marked seven-foot increments. We have also restricted access to some spaces in the church. This minimizes people gathering in smaller, enclosed spaces and makes it easier to clean after Mass. If you want a visual preview of our preparations, pictures are available on our Facebook page and judes.org.
- Unless you are coming for Reconciliation on Saturday, please do not enter the building church more than 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass. This will minimize our time together in an enclosed space and allow for sufficient time for parishioners to clean prior to each weekend Mass. Please minimize socializing inside the church building before and after Mass.
- Access to the church will only be through the center doors at the main entrance underneath the carport. This is done to help count the number of people attending Mass, so we’ll have a better idea of when we are at capacity. When we are at capacity, which is greatly reduced due to social distancing, no one will be permitted to enter.

With these precautions in place it may be difficult for us to actually pray! But our very desire to gather to pray, even if we are not attending Mass, is pleasing to God. May we be patient with these precautions, humble enough to follow them, and charitable when difficulties arise.

Father Mark Murphy

