

Happy springtime to you! I'm cautiously hopeful that we've seen the last of our snow for the season, but I'm not letting that hope grow too much, because it is Wyoming. I had a very fruitful Zoom call with the bishop and priests from around the diocese this morning. We're discussing very concretely how to bring people back to church as quickly and as safely as possible, so I've got some important updates for you. Lots of information this week, so I'm breaking it up by sections.

CONFESSION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

- The Sacraments of Confession and Anointing of the Sick will start this weekend!
- All Anointings of the Sick will be by appointment, as is normal.
- Confessions in Newcastle will be by appointment (call me!), and we'll use the screened side of our normal confessional.
- Confessions in Sundance and Upton will take place at the normal Sunday Mass times (10:30 am at St. Paul's and 5 pm at St. Anthony's) in the pews of the main body of the church, with 6-8 feet between you and me. Face-to-face will be the only option. There will be an usher at the front door to bring in the next person when the previous person leaves, and it might be better if you wait in your car or otherwise observe six feet of distancing outside as you wait for your turn.
- REMINDER: Since Mass has been unavailable for the last month and a half, you have not sinned by missing Sunday Mass during that time. If you're like me and my family, being cooped up with your family has probably led to other sins, and for that, God's mercy will be available.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

- All other Sacraments are on hold for a couple more weeks as we figure out how best to celebrate them.
- Sunday Mass will continue to be broadcast on the Corpus Christi Facebook page, [facebook.com/corpuschriticatholicchurchwy](https://www.facebook.com/corpuschriticatholicchurchwy), live at 7 am, and then available as a recording afterwards
- Sunday Mass will continue to be broadcast on AM 1240 KASL at 7 am.

YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS

- Steubenville of the Rockies has unfortunately been cancelled. We are processing your refunds right now. A digital conference will be offered in July, and I'll update you when I know more about that.
- As of now, our youth backpacking trip on June 29-July 3rd is still on, and there's still room to sign up. That trip will depend on whether the Forest Service and other land management agencies are allowing permitted groups to use the National Forests yet; right now they are not. COR (Catholic Outdoor Renewal) is working with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) and other outdoor industry leaders to create new policies and procedures to be safe and healthy in the backcountry.

FAITH FORMATION

- Our bible study via Zoom continues to go well. You're always welcome even if you can't make all the classes. Join the Remote Bible Study group on Flocknote to receive updates and information.
- I will continue to post daily reflections to newcastlecorpuschristi.org/homilies.

GIVING

- Thank you for your continued generosity to our parishes.
- For Corpus Christi, please mail your offering to the church at 19 W. Winthrop St.
- For St. Anthony's please mail your offering to PO Box 177.
- For St. Paul's, please mail checks to PO Box 28, or take cash to Sundance State Bank and have the tellers put it into the regular checking account or building fund checking account. Ask the teller to put your name on the receipt so that we can record it on the donation sheet.

FACE MASKS

-Masks or face coverings will probably be a required part of us gathering for Mass again. I don't know in what way they'll be required or how much. If you don't have a face covering of some sort, even a bandana to put over your mouth, I encourage you to acquire one.

-If you have extra washable, reusable masks, you could donate them to the church to distribute to others who don't have one. The point of the masks, from what I understand, is to protect others from any germs you may be carrying more than to protect yourself from others.

MY THOUGHTS

I was overjoyed when the bishop extended permission for Confessions to resume, and I'm grateful for the way he's thinking about how to resume public Masses as quickly and as safely as possible. My friends, we are stronger than we thought, and I hope that this absence from the Eucharist has only made our hearts grow fonder for it. As we begin to look ahead to a return to normalcy, or at least the next step towards normalcy, it's time to start reflecting on how well you lived this suffering. There are probably things you got right and things you got wrong. Reflect on that, not for the next time we experience another global pandemic (please God, let's never do this again), but simply for the next time you experience suffering of any sort. What have you learned about yourself during this time? What do you want to take with you out of this time?

My takeaways are basically this: We've all had our busy schedules stripped away, and we've all had our community time taken away as well. I hope we see the less busy schedules as a blessing we want to continue, and I hope we see the loss of our community as an awful sacrifice we never want to repeat. So, again because absence makes the heart grow fonder, I hope we never take our opportunities for community for granted again.

Keep being Christ's light in a dark world!

Fr. Brian