

## Re-Opening of Weekend Mass at St. Paul Parish

**Sunday Masses Resume Next Weekend** - The day we have been waiting for is upon us! Archbishop Blair announced on June 19<sup>th</sup> that Sunday Masses would resume on the weekend of July 4/5. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back. We will have our five (5) regular Masses here at St. Paul Church next weekend. That is the 4pm Vigil Mass on Saturday and Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 and Noon on Sunday. *There will NOT be a Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Church until the Archbishop reinstates the obligation to attend Mass.* I explain that reasoning in the bulletin (June 29<sup>th</sup>) on page 10. We will continue to live stream the 9am Sunday Mass. The other weekend Masses will NOT be live streamed unless noted below.

**Since we can have no more than 100 people in attendance at St. Paul Church for any Mass, parishioners will have to [sign up online](#) ahead of time and indicate which Mass they will attend.** Follow these instructions to sign up to attend Mass next weekend and every weekend going forward until announced otherwise. **Those who do not have a computer or device or someone who could do it for them may call the office 860-828-0331 (Monday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm) to reserve a space(s).** Having the sign up will give us the best idea of how we need to prepare for that weekend. So it is very important that you sign up ahead of time. The link to the signup is on the home page of our website <https://stpaulkensington.org/>

**If we reach capacity at any one Mass, we will live stream that Mass to the Parish Hall where another 40 people will be able to watch the same Mass that is taking place upstairs.** Communion will be distributed in the Parish Hall at the same time it is being distributed upstairs in the church. If we see that based on the numbers signing up for a Mass is exceeding this space as well, then we will be ready to have a separate Mass celebrated in the school gym at the same time where we can accommodate about 90 people. The gym is not our first option to deal with overflow, because it is summer and there is no AC in the gym and could be very hot in there especially for the 4pm Mass. If we have too many people show up for a Mass that did not sign up in advance then they might have to return for a later Mass.

### **I. When deciding if you should come to Mass at this time consider these points:**

- A. If you or anyone in your household is ill, especially with fever or flu-like symptoms or conjunctivitis, do not come to church.
- B. The decision regarding whether to attend Mass in person is left to each individual.
- C. **The obligation to attend Mass has been suspended by the Archbishop through September 6.** Therefore, the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, those who are fearful or anxious, and those who are taking care of a sick or homebound person need not be concerned if they miss Mass. *The 9:00 a.m. Mass will continue to be live streamed.*

### **II. If you are coming to a Sunday or Saturday Vigil Mass please:**

- A. **Go online and sign up for the Mass you want to attend.**
- B. Watch the Re-Opening video on [our website](#) that was prepared to welcome you back.
- C. Bring a mask and a small bottle of hand sanitizer.
- D. Prepare yourself for things being different including likely not sitting in “your usual spot” and maybe not even in the same wing.
- E. Be kind to the teams of greeters and ushers who are prepared to assist you and be respectful of the procedures that are in place to provide for everybody’s well being.
- F. **Be aware that collections will NOT be taken up during Mass.** Therefore, be prepared to drop your envelopes or donations in a basket that an usher will be holding as you enter church. If there are two collections, it will all go in one basket. All cash will go to the 1<sup>st</sup> collection. If you do not already give online, consider doing so by going to our website; look for the Online Giving logo.

### III. Once in church please be aware of the following:

- A. You must wear a mask or face covering at all times when in the church except at the moment you receive Communion. Those under the age of 2 do not need to have a mask and parents decide for their children between the ages of 2 - 5. Adults may be exempt by their doctor from wearing a mask, but should be aware that others may be uneasy about that.
- B. Maintain social distancing, keeping six feet apart, as best you can. Those in the same family are not obliged by this when together amongst themselves.
- C. You may only sit in *every other* row in both wings of the church. Do not sit in pews that are roped off.
- D. Members of the same household can sit in the same pew regardless of how many are in the row.
- E. Three unrelated people can be seated in the same pew, one person to a kneeler. Move to the center of the pew to allow others to more easily enter the pew. If a couple is in the pew sitting next to each other then one or two others can sit in that pew if they are properly spaced out.
- F. All of the worship aides have been removed. If you want to follow the readings using your iPhone or other device you may do so, but be sure it is silenced. Each day's readings can be found at [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings). If you have a subscription to *Magnificat*, or a similar subscription, feel free to bring it with you for the readings.

### IV. These liturgical changes remain in place:

- A. There will be no physical exchange of the sign of peace. Avoid any physical contact with others.
- B. For the reception of Communion, the following are our procedures:
  - 1. **Come up for Communion using the SIDE AISLES. Stay six feet apart which is the length of two (2) pews. So keep at least one pew between you and the person in front of you.**
  - 2. You must have your mask on the entire time when approaching the person distributing Holy Communion from here on simply referred to as "the minister."
  - 3. Communion will only be given in the hand.
  - 4. As you approach the minister extend your hands out, one hand UNDER the other, (if you are right handed have your right hand underneath your left hand, the opposite if your are left handed) the minister will say "The Body of Christ" and you will say "Amen." Step to the side to where an X will be on the floor, take the Host using the underneath hand, and then pull down or remove your mask with your other hand and then consume the Host. You should bless yourself and then reposition your mask and then **return to your seat using the center aisle** staying six feet apart which is the length of two pews.
  - 5. If you need to receive a low gluten host a designated minister will be distributing in the sanctuary near the corner where the two wings meet. Follow the same procedure as in #4 above.
- C. There will be music, but congregation singing is not encouraged at this time.
- D. There will be no formal Entrance or Recessional Procession. Instead the priest (and deacon) will simply enter from the sacristy and depart to the sacristy.
- E. There will be no offertory procession.
- F. Youth Altar Servers are not allowed at this time.
- G. One Reader per weekend Mass only.
- H. Eucharistic Ministers (EM), as they always have, will sanitize their hands immediately before distributing Communion.

### V. What to expect after Mass:

- A. As noted above there will not be a procession out at the end of Mass.
- B. Because the church must be cleaned after each Mass, for the time being, please leave the church when Mass has ended once again respecting social distancing.
- C. The church will be wiped down after EVERY Mass. This includes the pews, door handles, railings and all other high contact areas of the church.
- D. Avoid congregating to socialize after Mass.