

May 12, 2000: An Emerging Need

Yesterday we began the process of cordoning off pews so that we could get to the 20%-30% capacity that the CDC guidelines require before we can begin admitting people to Mass again. The work went well and I am confident of our approach. We will be able to spread the participants at Mass out across the entire church so that social distancing will be observed.

Now my attention is really moving on to the next component—the issues around the requirement that the liturgical space be sanitized after each use. What “each use” will entail for us has not been determined yet. Will that mean just having weekday Masses a couple times per week? Will it mean only one Mass on Saturday evening and one on Sunday? A lot will depend on how much time it will take to complete the sanitizing process. One thing that seems clear is that the process will require a team to complete it in a timely manner. Our maintenance supervisor, Mike Bedwell, will be involved obviously, but if he is the only one it will take quite a while to get the job done. So, I am sending out this call for volunteers—people who will be able to wipe down pews after the weekend Masses above all, but possibly also being involved during the week once we start having weekday Masses again.

If you are one of the willing, please e-mail me or call the parish office and let the staff person who answers know that you are available. The entire parish will be grateful!