

May 19, 2000: We have a date: First Mass open to the public set for Tuesday, May 26th

Although we are still working out the details, it appears that we can go ahead and put on the parish calendar the first Mass at which an assembly of the faithful will be present: Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Before that day the entire church will be sanitized and will continue to be sanitized after each event that takes place thereafter. The sanitizing will be under the direction of our maintenance supervisor, Mike Bedwell, and will involve the help of those who responded to the call for volunteers. If you are among that number, you will be contacted as to when to come and be trained in this task.

Going forward we still have need for volunteers in other areas. For example, the archdiocese has determined that priests over the age of 65 or with vulnerabilities regarding the ability to fight off the corona virus must not distribute communion. At those Masses where Fr. Fred is the presider, for example, we will need someone else to distribute communion. We are seeking volunteers to help with that. When I am the presider, I will be able to perform that ministry myself.

Communion will continue to be distributed only under the form of the consecrated host. For the time being there will continue to be no communion from the cup, either at weekday Masses or Sunday Masses. Those not receiving communion are asked also not to come forward for a blessing. Communion will be distributed in the hand only. For those who are uncomfortable receiving communion in the hand you are encouraged to make a spiritual communion at your place in the pew.

As you can see, things will be different and we will still need to proceed slowly. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the presence of weekday Masses. We hope to use them to help keep us from getting to the point where we will not be able to accommodate everyone on Sunday, given that our capacity will be only a third of what it has been. If we can accommodate the pent-up demand for coming to church by using the weekday Masses to do so, we should be in good shape.