

June 1, 2020: Initial reflection on the resumption of public Masses at St. Ben's

We completed the full schedule of Masses this past weekend and learned a lot in the process. One thing we learned, I think, is that, by and large, the preparatory work we had invested paid off. The Masses were able to be celebrated without major disruption, and safely. There are some things we will want to tweak in the coming weeks. The communion procession, for example, still felt a bit foreign and will take a bit of getting used to. We've already learned a lot about what it takes to sanitize the church after each Mass and it looks like we will be able to streamline that process a bit. I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help with that. I know it's a big job, but you all nailed it!

This coming weekend we will stick to the modified schedule of celebrating Mass at 5:30 on Saturday and at 8:00 and 11:30 on Sunday. I don't believe things are settled enough yet to go back to our normal schedule. We will also begin this coming weekend to offer the sacrament of penance and reconciliation at 4:00 to 5:00. That will be conducted outside because our confessionals are too small and confined to allow for social distancing. Look for the canopy on the south side of the church, between the church and friary. There will be a tarp hung up between the priest and the kneeler so that confessions can be made with anonymity intact. There will be a chair, too, for those who want to confess face-to-face.