



St. Ignatius Loyola Church
Holy Family Church

305 Portage Street
Houghton, MI 49931
Office 906-482-0212 – Fax 906-482-8110



May 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Ignatius,

I am pleased to announce that Bishop John Doerfler has given permission to reopen our parishes for private prayer and public celebration of Mass starting Tuesday, May 19th. Although we are opening our church, the possibility of spreading Covid-19 is still real. Please help us in minimizing this risk by following all CDC guidelines for personal hygiene best practices. Additionally, while at church we will be implementing some specific restrictions to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. These restrictions may have to be adjusted in time. If anything changes, we will let you know.

Before you come to church:

- If you have the characteristic symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, headache, aches and pains, loss of taste or smell, or any other of the symptoms listed on the CDC website) please stay home and/or seek medical attention/testing.
- Stay home if you know you have been exposed to Covid-19 or if you are returning from an area that requires the 14-day quarantine.
- If you are 65 or older and/or have other health conditions that place you at high risk of serious illness from Covid-19, consider staying home.
- For those who are not able to attend, we will continue to live stream the Sunday morning Mass. Also, Bishop John has dispensed with the weekend Mass obligation until further notice.

While in church:

- At St. Ignatius, the east entrance and east parking lot is closed due to the construction so please enter through the north doors.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed in the entrance area. You must sanitize your hands when entering. It would be good if you could bring a small bottle of hand sanitizer with you and use it before receiving Communion.
- Please wear a face mask at all times inside the church.
- Maintain a 6-foot distance between your "household" and the next by sitting in every other pew and sit only at the ends of the available pews.
- Overflow area will be provided in the basement hall of both Holy Family and St. Ignatius.
- The holy water fonts will not be filled. Bottled holy water will be available for you to take home.

Celebration of the Mass:

- We will not be scheduling Communion Ministers or Altar Servers during this time, and we will not have a choir. Ushers will be there to help direct parishioners only, no collection will be taken up during Mass.
- A basket will be placed at the entrance for the collection.
- The songbooks and prayer cards will be removed from the pews. We will try to have familiar songs so we can all sing. You may bring your own Missal from home.
- We will not have a congregational Sign of Peace between non-household persons.
- For Communion, stay in your pew until it is your turn. Be sure to stay 6 feet apart during the Communion procession.
- Communion will be in the form of the Precious Body only. Communion will be distributed by the priest and deacon.
- You will have to receive Communion in the hand. Since you are wearing a mask, receive the host in your hands, step to the side, remove your mask, place the host in your mouth, put on your mask, then return to your pew.
- After Mass, if you wish to socialize, please keep your distances and preferably wait until you are outside.

Mass Schedule:

- The weekend Mass schedule is returning to normal and will begin on May 23rd and 24th. Saturday Mass will be at 4pm at St. Ignatius. Sunday masses are at 9:30am at St. Ignatius and 11am at Holy Family.
- St. Ignatius daily Mass schedule will begin on Tuesday May 19, 2020 at 5pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am.
- Holy Family daily Mass schedule begins on Thursday May 21, 2020 with confessions at 5pm and Mass at 5:30pm.

Information updates will be posted on our website at: www.stignatiuschurch-houghton.org

Our Facebook page is: *St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church of Houghton*

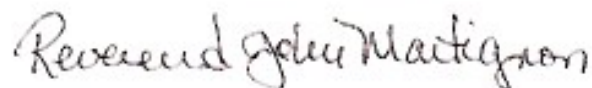
Our YouTube channel is: *St. Ignatius Loyola Houghton*

Online giving: From the St. Ignatius webpage, select "Donate" from the right side of the upper menu bar, then select "Create a New Account" and fill out the online form.

If you need anything from us, please call the church. The office will be staffed during normal business hours. After hours, please leave a message.

Keep God at the center of your life and we will get through this just fine.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Reverend John Martignon