

## The Parishes of Grouping 101:

All Saints  
19 Wilson St.  
Pgh, PA 15223  
412-781-0530

St. Bonaventure  
2001 Mt. Royal Blvd.  
Glenshaw, PA 15116  
412-486-2606

Holy Spirit  
608 Farragut St.  
Pgh, PA 15209  
412-821-4424

St. Aloysius  
3616 Mt. Troy Rd.  
Pgh, PA 15212  
412-821-2351

*Each a Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

1 June 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The COVID-19 pandemic brought us many changes very quickly, hasn't it? It seems like years ago that I last wrote you. In reality, it was only the end of March. So much has happened, or not, in these 60 some days.

Firstly, I do want to thank you for your financial generosity to the parishes these last two months. I know that it has been tough financially for so many of you. However, your faith and trust in the Church, and by extension, in me as your administrator, is tremendously appreciated. May God bless you for your goodness to the parishes. Please keep up that support to the best of your abilities.

In preparation for returning to public worship, there are a number of things to bring to your attention. They include the following.

While Bishop Zubik has permitted church buildings to be open for public Masses as of 1 June 2020, I have chosen for our grouping to delay opening our churches to 3:00 PM on 6 June 2020. Why? Prior to that time, only 25 people are allowed to be in church at one time. Quite honestly, I don't want to be the person at the door who has to say, "Oops, sorry, you are number 26! You're not allowed to come to Mass today!" That just doesn't seem very pastoral. However, come 6 June, we are allowed to admit 25% of our seating capacity. That will allow for a larger gathering for Mass.

Speaking of our seating capacity, I do want to share that with you for future reference. The modern standard says to allow 24 inches per person. At the start of my ministry, I did do a study of the linear feet of our pews and the theoretical number of occupants. When the seats are plotted, they do decrease in number due to odd sized pews. The full layout is available on the website, [www.EGMCatholic.org](http://www.EGMCatholic.org). (Please note that in the chart below, the "+" for SBP is the chapel seating.)

Church	Linear Capacity	100%	75%	50%	25%
ASP	468	416	312	208	104
SBP	631 + 39	623 + 39	467 + 29	312 + 20	156 + 10
HSP	562	532	399	266	133
SAP	418	396	297	198	99

There are some practical aspects to returning as well. They are as follows:

- The faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass until further notice. If you feel uncomfortable attending, you are able to stay home. This includes those who are at higher risk from COVID-19 (i.e. those who are 65 years of age or older or who have underlying health conditions).
  - Please note that we will continue to offer the Mass via live-streaming at [www.Facebook.com/PittsburghCatholicGrouping101](https://www.Facebook.com/PittsburghCatholicGrouping101) and the website, [www.EGMCatholic.org](http://www.EGMCatholic.org), afterwards. Mass will be streamed Monday-Saturday at 8:00 AM and Sundays at 9:00 AM.
- Anyone (parishioner, liturgical minister, cleric) who is showing symptoms of illness or feeling ill is to stay home. We do not want our churches to be a point of contagion.
- Sadly, the faithful are not to congregate anywhere on parish property and are to maintain the required six (6) feet of physical distance on the steps, in the doorways, in the parking lot, outside of the restrooms, etc.
- The faithful are to wear a mask in church and while on church property (except for those age 2 and under). This is in order to protect you as well as the other parishioners gathered for that Mass.
- Upon entering the church building, each person is to sanitize their hands. A pump bottle or sprayer will be available.
- As the offertory collection and related procession will be omitted, selected ministers will be holding baskets at the doorways in which you will place your donation. At an appropriate moment, the ministers will empty their baskets into the tamper resistant bag and place it in the designated location in each building.
- The holy water fonts will remain empty.
- Due to the requirement to disinfect the pews and common surfaces after each Mass, we are asking that people sit by zones. This will assure the physical distancing of six (6) feet that is required in each direction. Households, as well as extended family if you wish, are able to sit next to each other without social distancing. The suggested zones look like this:
  - 4:00 PM SBP – DARK BLUE
  - 4:00 PM SAP – CARNATION
  - 7:30 AM SBP – GOLDENROD
  - 8:30 AM HSP - PINK
  - 9:00 AM ASP – TEAL BLUE
  - 10:00 AM SBP – DARK BLUE
  - 11:00 AM HSP – LIGHT BLUE
  - 11:30 AM ASP – GREEN
- Due to scientific concerns with the spread of droplets, singing is discouraged. Therefore, the hymnals will be removed. In addition, all related pamphlets and items in the vestibules will be removed so as not to spread any contamination.
- The offering of the sign of peace will continue to be omitted, as will the distribution of the Precious Blood.
- The distribution of Holy Communion will take place in this fashion:
  - During the Lamb of God, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) will approach the altar to stand in the designated spots.
  - Once the Priest receives Holy Communion under both forms, as he is required to do, he will give Communion (Sacred Host only) to the Deacon. Both will proceed to their chairs and remove the outer garment (chasuble/dalmatic). They will put on face coverings. They will both sanitize their hands.

- The Priest/Deacon will then distribute the Precious Body to the EMHCs. Afterward, one by one the EMHCs will sanitize their hands and return to the altar area. There they will receive their ciborium and proceed to their designated distribution station.
- The faithful will be directed to a minister to receive Communion one row at a time. Please stand on the markings on the floor to remain physically distant. The communicant will need to remove his/her face covering prior to reception. Communion cannot be given to an individual wearing gloves of any sort. It is highly encouraged that communion be received in the hand, with one's fingers as flat as possible to avoid contact with the distributor as the Sacred Host is "dropped" into the communicant's non-dominant hand. Should contact be made, the distributing minister will stop, set down the ciborium, sanitize his/her hands, wait the moment for them to dry, and continue distributing. After receiving, the communicant returns to his/her seat and puts on his/her face covering.
- Due to contamination issues, blessings will not be offered to small children during the distribution of communion.
- The usual post-communion procedures of each site will be followed. All ministers will be required to sanitize their hands. The Priest and Deacon will remove their face coverings and put on their outer garment. Mass will continue as usual with the Prayer after Communion.
- At the conclusion of Mass, wait to be dismissed from your row. You will be able to pick up a bulletin as you leave.
  - Beginning 1 June 2020, there will be a combined bulletin for our grouping. An attempt will also be made to unify any Mass announcements, both in content and timing.
  - When the pandemic began, *The Pittsburgh Catholic* newspaper ceased publication and laid-off the entire staff. At the present time, I have not heard that it will resume being published.
- Once in the vestibule/gathering space, please proceed immediately to your vehicle. Do not gather and socialize.

There are additional guidelines for other sacramental celebrations. Those include the following:

- BAPTISM – We are only allowed to schedule one family at a time. There is a list of protocols that need to be followed. Please be in contact with the appropriate parish office to schedule a baptism and receive the list of protocols.
- CONFIRMATION – This is in the Bishop's hand for rescheduling. We have asked for late September. His office has not been in contact with me.
- FIRST COMMUNION – I know that our young people are longing to receive like the rest of us. However, until we can sustain larger crowds, we can't schedule official dates. Stay tuned.
- CONFESSION – We are allowed to return to confessions inside the building, just not in the confessional itself, for the sake of physical distancing and sanitizing. We Priests are looking for ways to be able to accommodate this sacrament of God's mercy.
- FUNERALS – I do hate to use this word as it often "brings" them. However, I do need to remind you of the many parishioners we have lost in these days. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. For many, a Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass (FLOM) was offered in the funeral home or at the cemetery. With others, we never received word about their passing. For families wishing to have a Memorial Mass for your loved one,

please be in contact with the appropriate parish office and Priest to schedule either a special Mass time or taking an available weekday or Sunday Mass intention slot. I would ask that you be patient in scheduling. We cannot possibly accommodate everyone who might want a Mass at the exact same date and time! We can only do so much!

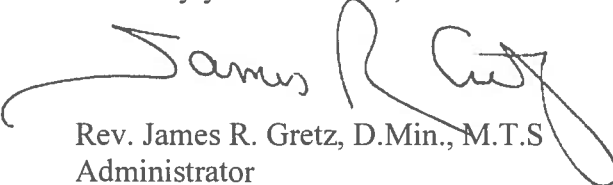
Since this letter has run on and on, I also want to bring you up to date on some physical issues with our buildings and systems that have transpired since we were last together. This has added to my “fun”.

- ASP is having some roofing issues at both the Church and Activities Building. There are four leaks in the Church building requiring some roofing repairs, though mainly with the masonry. The roof above the rest room needs to be replaced. No bids have yet been obtained. As for the Activities Building, that needs to be an entire new roof. Of course, its replacement includes the dreaded “a” word – asbestos. That repair was bid at about \$125,000.00.
- The interior restoration work at SBP has not been completed. Construction was shut down during the pandemic. However, it was further discovered that the entire roof needs replaced. So, once bids were able to be obtained, they came in at about \$150,000.00. In addition, there is the cost to fix and finish the interior. Thankfully the inside is basically covered by insurance.
- In addition, SBP’s phone system was freakishly flooded. While the phones can be used, there is no automated attendant nor voice mail. We are seeking bids for a new cloud-based phone system. The cost will be about \$10,000.00, with over \$8,000.00 covered by insurance.
- At HSP, there are some minor roofing issues at the church. Those are being evaluated.
- I also announced publicly that I am looking to centralize our offices at SAP in the convent building. Why there? It provides adequate space to house all of our staff with the least amount of renovation. I have retained an architect to begin design. I would hope that we could be in place by the Summer of 2021.
- Finally, there is always a concern about church buildings. I reiterate that in my heart of hearts, I want to sustain our four church buildings. That’s why these roofing issues are so critical. I do not want to abandon our four communities and the good works we have done and can do in the future.

Perhaps these above notices remind you of the continuing financial need of our parishes. I ask you to continue to be generous so that all these projects can be completed for the good work that we need to do.

If there is need for anything else on my part, do not hesitate to call upon me at All Saints or via email at [JGretz@diopitt.org](mailto:JGretz@diopitt.org). Until then, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. James R. Gretz, D.Min., M.T.S.  
Administrator