

St. Mary's Catholic Church

May 13, 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters sheltering in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary:

We have wonderful news to share with you! Beginning this Sunday, May 17th, we will be able to resume distributing Holy Communion to you! This is a big first step toward restoring the public celebration of the Mass, and we are very excited to bring Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to you. Indeed, when Bishop Paprocki announced this blessing, my heart surged with joy as I sensed the magnitude of this gift - that you would soon be able to receive Jesus, and to be strengthened and united by his Sacred Body and Blood.

Until now, Bishop Paprocki had asked us to fast from the Eucharist due to the dangers of Covid-19. You have not been able to receive Jesus for just about two months. That's a long time to be without our Eucharistic Lord. There's a blessing in this: I invite you to prayerfully recall and ponder your First Holy Communion, and the joy and care with which you prepared for it. During the remainder of this week, perhaps you can prepare your heart as you did then. What a wonderful opportunity to "Begin Again" with the Lord!

One excellent way to prepare is to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions will be available in the church this Thursday evening from 6 to 8 PM, as well as the usual time on Saturday from 4 to 5 PM and 7 to 8 PM.

On Sunday, please join us online via Facebook livestream (as you are able) as we celebrate Mass this Sunday at 9 AM. Immediately after Mass finishes, please come in your cars and line up along 4th Street, where we will set up four Communion stations. We will be distributing Holy Communion from 10:15 AM to 1:00 PM.

While waiting in your car, please prayerfully prepare your hearts to receive Our Lord. Perhaps you could pray the Rosary together. When you reach the front of the line, an usher will direct you to drive to one of the four Communion stations. You will park the car, everyone will exit the car and approach the minister at that station to receive Communion. Please maintain reverent silence as the minister leads you in prayer. After receiving, please also take a bulletin and return to your car. Once the occupants of all four cars have received Communion and are back in their cars, all four cars will leave. Then the next four cars will move forward. This is for the safety of all. As you continue your journey, offer a prayer of thanksgiving. You will find several prayers of thanksgiving printed in the bulletin.

We can't wait to celebrate Our Lord's goodness with you!

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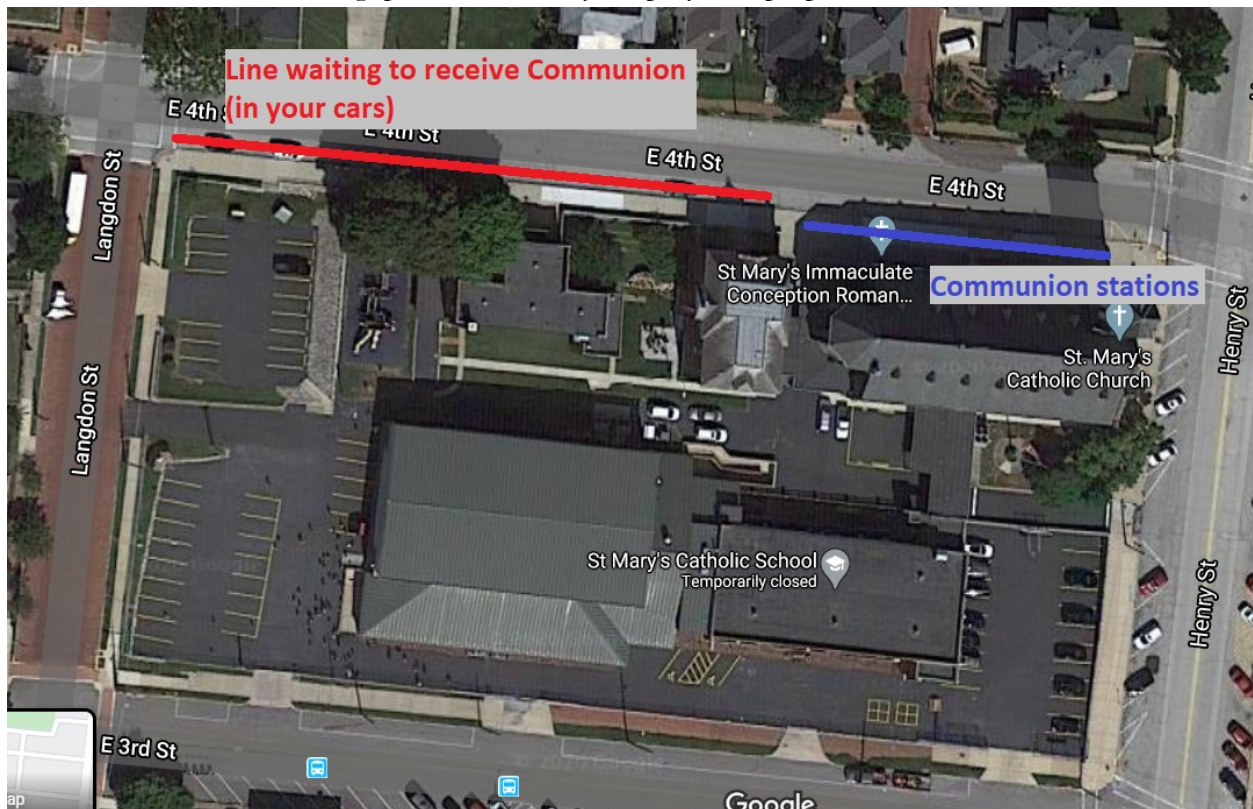
Please remember that due to the dangers of Covid-19, Bishop Paprocki has continued the suspension of the Sunday Obligation indefinitely. If you are at higher risk or are vulnerable to the virus because of age or underlying medical conditions, I ask you to please remain at home until such time as it is safe for you to come to the Parish. If you have any questions about any of this or are in any need, please call me at 618-465-4284 x 223.

God bless you, and may Our Lady of the Rivers be your refuge!

Fr. Jeremy Paulin, OMV, and all the pastoral staff at St. Mary's

Detailed Procedure:

- When preparing for Confession, feel free to use this Examination of Conscience, courtesy of the Fathers of Mercy:
<https://fathersofmercy.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020Examination.pdf>
- On Sunday, please prepare for Communion by attending Mass online or by TV, as you are able. Ours is at 9 AM at <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysalton>
- Come by car, and wait in line (in your car) along 4th Street, as we did on Palm Sunday.
 - While waiting, please continue your prayerful preparation to receive Our Lord.



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- When you reach the front of the line, you will see four canopies/stations. When it is your turn, pull up to the most forward position available to you. Four cars will be attended to at a time.
- Park, exit your vehicle (as you are able), and approach the Communion station to receive Our Lord.
 - After a moment of silence, the priest will lead you in the prayer before Communion. Please respond, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.”
 - Please exercise due reverence and etiquette in receiving the Eucharist in order to avoid any unhygienic contact with the minister. Use the sanitizer on the table before communion. If you choose to receive on the tongue, be careful to stand still and keep your tongue flat. If you choose to receive in the hand, be sure to open your hand flat.
 - Please take a bulletin and return to your car.
 - This will not be a time to visit with the priest, deacon or brother, who will be focused on Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Once the occupants of all four cars have received Communion and are back in their cars, all four cars will leave. Then the next four cars will move forward.
- Please say a prayer of thanksgiving as you drive. You will find several prayers of thanksgiving printed in the bulletin.

Please note:

You will notice that Fr. Dave is not assisting with Holy Communion. We are doing our best to protect him from the virus, which means avoiding unnecessary occasions in which the rest of us may be exposed to it. For this reason and for other reasons, I ask you in your charity to abide by the preceding instructions and the following:

- When approaching the Holy Communion station, remove your mask, receive the Host either on your tongue or in your hands held flat, and replace your mask after consuming the Host.
- No one is permitted to take Holy Communion to family members or friends who are not physically present at the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Homebound and nursing home visitation is not permissible by lay ministers. In case of an emergency, individuals should contact the Parish Office. One of the priests will administer the Sacraments.

Holy Communion will be distributed from 10:15 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 17th and the following Sundays. As we continue our journey together through these difficult times these plans may be adjusted, so thank you for your prayers and patience.