

**LITURGICAL GUIDELINES FOR ST. VINCENT DEPAUL & ST. PATRICK  
WEST PARK DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC:**

***\*\*Effective 5/26/2020 until further notice***

*At both, St. Patrick, West Park & St. Vincent De Paul Parishes, the staff & parish pastoral council are making every effort possible to provide as safe & as healthy an environment as possible for parishioners during this time of pandemic. We are committed to doing our best & following the safety guidelines from the Diocese of Cleveland & the government. In these times, there is no foolproof way to prevent anyone from contracting the coronavirus 100% of the time in social settings; our goal is to help work together to minimize the risk. Thank you for your help & cooperation in working together to provide as safe an environment as possible.*

**General Mass Information**

- 1) For the time being, Mass will be both celebrated live as well as live-streamed for those who don't yet feel comfortable coming to Mass
- 2) Those in at risk groups or those who don't feel comfortable coming out in public yet will be reminded that they don't need to come, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is, for the moment, not mandatory
- 3) Parishioners are encouraged to monitor their own health & take their temperature before coming to Mass. Those with temperatures over 100.4 degrees are asked to remain home.
- 4) Pews will be marked off & blocked off so there is a 6 foot distance, with labels to indicate social distancing as well as how many people can be seated in that particular pew (odd # pews on one side & even # pews on the other)
- 5) Hand sanitizer will be available at the doors of the Church for people to use as they come into Mass. Parishioners are asked to sanitize their hands as they come into Church.

- 6) For the time being, only 50% of the capacity of Church can be allowed in at a time
- 7) The back doors (facing the road) of each Church building will be locked & not used as entrance doors (we will be able to exit from them in the case of emergency). Parishioners are asked to enter the Church through either of the side doors
- 8) Those who come to Mass are asked to wear masks or face covering in Church. The Priest/Deacon will wear a mask AT LEAST for Communion. They will wear it at other times as well, but may lower it when speaking or performing ministerial roles.
- 9) For the ministers to the homebound, they will be invited to bring their pyx to a gloved sacristan who will put in the appropriate # of hosts...pyxes for homebound will be shut before Mass instead of leaving them open; instead of calling those taking Communion to the homebound at the end of Mass to receive their pyx from the Presider, pyxes will be left on the altar for people to individually come & get after Mass is over
- 10) Confessions will be heard in the Sacristy at each parish. The regular Confessional is too small a space just yet & does not provide for the appropriate social distancing. Appropriate signage & direction will be provided for those coming for Confession
- 11) The doors of Church will be propped or held open before/after Mass to avoid having multiple people touch the doors
- 12) Staff/ushers will be available before Mass, especially for first few weeks, to assist with directing people to pews specifically marked for social distancing
- 13) The hymnals/Misalletes have been removed from pews & will remain out for the time being.
- 14) The Holy Water fonts will remain empty for the time being
- 15) When entering & exiting from Mass, parishioners are asked to please be aware of maintaining the proper social distancing
- 16) For daily Mass, parishioners will be asked to sit ONLY in the front half of the Church, maintaining the appropriate social distancing.

- 17) Sacristans/those setting up for Mass will wear gloves when putting out the sacred vessels.

**During Mass**

- 18) We will use a simple procession from the Sacristy to begin/end Mass, rather than the normal procession
- 19) For the time being we will not be using any ministers (Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion) at Mass
- 20) Instrumental music will be used except for the chanting of the Entrance & Communion antiphons. For a time we will NOT be using any congregational singing
- 21) The Gloria, Mass responses, & the Responsorial Psalm will be recited along with the Psalm for the time being
- 22) There will be no offertory processions or ushers going through the pews taking up the collection being. Stationary baskets will be placed at the doors of the Church for the collection, they will be taken away during Mass & replaced after Mass. The baskets will be monitored at all times
- 23) The Sign of Peace will continue to be omitted
- 24) At St. Vincent's Deacon Ken will NOT receive from Chalice during Communion, ONLY the Priest will receive
- 25) Communion will continue to be offered only under the species of the Body
- 26) For the time being, EMHC's will NOT be used. Only Fr. John/Dcn. Ken (or Fr. Klein) will be distributing Communion
- 27) Communion will be distributed one side at a time in order to help better maintain social distancing
- 28) The faithful will strongly be encouraged to receive Communion only in hand. If they feel the necessity to receive on the tongue, they should come up @ end
- 29) To distribute Communion, the Priest/Deacon will pick up host & drop the host in communicants hand from slightly above it

- 30) When they come up to receive Communion, the faithful should lower their mask & place the hand they used to lower the mask UNDER their other hand
- 31) The faithful should receive Communion from the 6 foot line closest to the Priest/Deacon

### **After Mass**

- 32) The Priest will greet the people after Mass, but will do it from 6 feet away...maybe standing at doors of sacristy or the top of steps
- 33) Bulletins will be left on a card table for people to take after Mass
- 34) For the time being, there will be NO coffee & doughnuts, any gatherings like that, or any selling of things after Mass

### **Sanitizing**

- 35) The Church will be cleaned between Masses & those cleaning Church should be masked & wearing gloves
- 36) All pews will be wiped down with disinfectant after each Mass
- 37) All touch points...door handles, faucets, etc. will be wiped with disinfectant following each Mass