

27 May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**I am pleased to announce that our parishes will once again be open for public Masses starting on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31, the Feast of Pentecost.** Weekend Masses will be at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday at Holy Family Parish. There will also be a Saturday 6:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception or St. Boniface. (May 30 will be at Immaculate Conception Parish, North Washington.)

So as you ask yourself if you should come to church, I would like you to take the following into consideration:

- All Catholics continue to be dispensed from their obligation to attend Mass, so you may freely choose not to come with a peaceful conscience.
- You are encouraged to stay home if you are vulnerable or nervous about contracting COVID-19. If there is a doubt, please err on the side of caution.
- You are also asked to stay home if you are feeling sick or have a fever, have recently been sick, work in or regularly visit high-risk situations.

For those who choose to come to church, please be aware of some of the following adaptations that we will be asking of those who participate.

1. Social distancing **must** be observed. Please keep a distance of 6 feet apart and space yourselves appropriately in pews unless you are in the same family. At Holy Family, we will be closing off every other pew. We will monitor the number of people at Immaculate Conception and St. Boniface, and will mark off pews if necessary.
2. Missalettes will be temporarily removed and singing will be curtailed. We may be able to print the text of a hymn or two in the bulletin to sing.
3. We will not initially pass the collection basket hand-to-hand. Instead, please place your stewardship offerings in baskets near the entrances. Thank you for your support!
4. For Holy Communion, please go slowly and keep social distancing. The distributor may wear a mask but will not use gloves. Please hold your hands as still as possible to avoid hand-to-hand contact. For those who wish to continue to receive on the tongue, I ask that you wait until the end and come to me to receive Holy Communion.
5. Other **recommended** practices include washing your hands before attending Mass, using hand sanitizer, wearing a mask, and avoid touching your face. Please bring your own hand sanitizer.
6. The most important rule is the Golden Rule. Please show respect, patience, and consideration of others.

Mass will continue to be recorded (Saturday evenings at 4 PM) and put up on the Good Shepherd Cluster YouTube channel for those who prefer to stay home at this time. The only weekday Mass to start will be the regularly scheduled Friday morning Mass at 8:30 a.m.

At first, Mass will be very simple. As the weeks go on, we will gradually add more things in accord with updated guidelines. I humbly ask for your patience, prayers, and charity as we begin to resume more activities at our parishes. I look forward to seeing you again soon!

Fr. Dellaert