

12 August 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings!

Many of you were already inquiring about the reopening of our churches for Sunday Masses. After enough preparations in setting up our churches, may I therefore formally inform you that we will reopen at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish this coming Sunday, Aug. 16, at 9:30 AM in Lawn and 11:00 AM in St. Lawrence. St. Joseph's Parish reopens on Saturday, Aug. 15, at 4:30 PM in Lamaline and 6:00 PM in Lord's Cove. Point May opens on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 6:00 PM.

Please know that in COMPLIANCE with the Archdiocesan Guidelines and the Public Health measures of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, we set up the church seating arrangements in following social distancing of six feet apart, directional signs, hand sanitizers, wearing of masks, and other measures during the Mass to help stop the possible spread of COVID-19.

Furthermore, to ensure the safety of everyone, please bring and wear a mask upon entering the Church and during the duration of the service. An usher will assist you at the door, take your name and contact number for contact tracing purposes. If you registered online (links below) or called the parish office, an usher would check off your name on the list. The list will be discarded after two weeks.

Upon entering the Church, you will be directed by the usher to put your collection envelope in the collection box at the entrance of the Church as there would be no offertory during this time. Then sanitize your hands and follow through to your assigned seat. You can sit together if you are in the same bubble or the same household. This may sound inconvenient, but you could no longer sit on your favorite spot as the seats are to be occupied first from the upfront row to the back pew. After the service, those seated at the back pew section will be directed first to the exit door. Physical contact or conversation while inside the church building is highly discouraged during this time.

Please bring your own mask and hand sanitizer. You will wear your mask and use your hand sanitizer at Holy Communion. Other details will be announced before Mass begins, especially in receiving Holy Communion.

To help us determine the number of parishioners that are coming back to Church on August 16, you may register online below:

For St. Lawrence parishioners, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/church-reopening-st-lawrence-tickets-116794644927>

For Lawn parishioners, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/church-reopening-holy-name-of-jesus-church-lawn-tickets-116797519525>

You may also call the parish office at 709-873-2675 from Mondays through Fridays, 10:00 AM-11:45 AM; 2:00 PM- 3:45 PM. Cut off time is on Fridays at 3:45 PM.

In the case of St. Joseph's Parish, you don't need to call the parish office to register your name for each weekend Mass. We have an usher assigned at the door to take your name and contact number for each Church. This is to help our parish secretary to do other jobs from an overwhelming volume of calls during the week.

Under Alert Level 2, the maximum is 50 persons in Church and depending on the space area. Therefore, based on the regular six-foot social distancing, the seating capacity for each Church is as follows:

St. Thomas Aquinas Church- St. Lawrence (50)
Holy Name of Jesus Church- Lawn (27)
St. Joseph's Church- Lamaline- (23)
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church- Lord's Cove (26)
Holy Rosary Church- Point May (25)

This seating capacity includes the priest, usher/s, reader, and cantor.

Also here is the link to the Archdiocesan Guidelines for your reference: <https://rcsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Level-2-RCEC-Guidelines-20200625-003.pdf>

For those who cannot make it to Church, you may continue watching the live-streamed Mass at the Basilica in this link: <https://www.thebasilica.net/> and click "Live Stream."

Thank you for your continued prayers and support in making our parish a safe environment for everyone. Please SHARE this information with others as well. See you then.

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Nelson Boren
Pastor
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
And St. Joseph's Parish
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