

## CHURCH REOPENING MESSAGE

Hello everyone, we're so happy to be re-opening the church and we look forward to seeing all of you again. You have been away from the church 'physically' for a long time. We want to make your experience of coming back to church as welcoming as possible yet still keeping all the necessary safety precautions.

I've heard from other parishes that when they returned to THEIR church they felt like they were walking into a "CRIME SCENE" with all the yellow caution tape etc. We want our parishioners to feel like they are at home in their church once again. This is the place where you should feel most comfortable to approach God who is your comfort and source of strength especially at this most difficult time.

Before you return to church I felt it necessary to update you on a few things:

- ◆ As you know - we're starting public masses this weekend
- ◆ Saturday mass in the parking lot at 5:00 pm
- ◆ Sunday mass in the church at 9:00 am

I'll say more about the particulars of Mass in a few minutes

- ◆ We met Monday night with our RCIA team
- ◆ We're making plans to get the SACRAMENTAL LIFE of the church back on track
  
- ◆ We'll be getting together with parents and scheduling FIRST COMMUNIONS and CONFIRMATIONS
  
- ◆ We'll be scheduling dates for those in RCIA who are receiving the sacraments
  
- ◆ As I've mentioned before, on June 29th we'll be having an outdoor graduation ceremony for the 2020 8th Grade graduation class of OMPH.
  
- ◆ As we welcome our parishioners back to church this weekend, it's important to keep in mind that Covid-19 is still a threat to public health.
  
- ◆ To help keep everyone safe - these regular practices continue to be important for us: '*6 ft. distancing,*' *hand washing* and the *wearing of masks.*
  
- ◆ The Diocese of Harrisburg has provided guidelines as we slowly re-open our churches. We ask that

everyone follow these guidelines strictly and be patient as we begin to move forward.

- ◆ Bishop Gainer has dispensed everyone of our Sunday obligation indefinitely. With this in mind, all people who who have existing health concerns or who are not feeling well are asked to stay home and not attend Mass. God understands your situation, and he's with you wherever you are. Please continue to attend Mass on television, the internet, or on Facebook.
- ◆ If you cannot wear a face mask at this time, we ask you to please stay home.
- ◆ We encourage you to carry your own personal hand sanitizer and to use it before coming to Mass and before receiving Communion.

PLEASE BARE WITH ME I HAVE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO CHURCH. IN ADDITION TO SENDING THIS VIDEO OUT TO YOU - I WILL ALSO SEND OUT A PRINTED VERSION IN THE NEWSLETTER.

- ◆ All parishioners over the age of 5 are asked to wear a mask during Mass.

- ◆ Most likely church attendance will be light initially. Families and those who live together can occupy one bench or row.
- ◆ Single individuals will be distanced from each other by 6 feet. We will only be using every other 3rd row. When the church is getting 'full' based on these seating arrangements, we will schedule an 11:00 mass.
- ◆ We will utilize **one door for entering the church** - (we will use the main doors under the drive thru.) Parishioners will be asked to seat themselves, starting from the front of the church to the rear, observing the instructions of the ushers who will 'usher' them into the church.
- ◆ I realize many of you have your preferred places in church to sit, but I ask you please during this time to please sit where the usher directs you.
- ◆ The "cry room" will NOT be used until further notice.
- ◆ Hymn books have been removed and there will be no congregational singing nor will choirs be allowed until

further notice. A musician and cantor will provide music.

- ◆ We will have one reader do the readings.
- ◆ There will be no Eucharistic Ministers at this time.
- ◆ The priest will process down the aisle at the beginning of Mass during the opening song.
- ◆ There will be no offertory procession. Baskets will be placed on the far ends of the sanctuary steps for the offertory collection. Before receiving Communion, if you have an offering you may drop it into one of the baskets before receiving Communion. Thank you for your support during this Pandemic.
- ◆ Communion will take place after Mass
- ◆ At Communion time (after Mass), parishioners are asked to follow the instructions of the ushers and come to communion by the SIDE aisle one section at a time and return by the CENTER aisle, observing the 6 feet distance guidelines.

- ◆ Everyone should leave their seat or bench, even if you do not plan to receive Communion, in order to avoid people having to step over one another.
- ◆ During this time of Pandemic we strongly 'encourage' you to receive the Eucharist in your hands. When you meet the priest - pull your mask below your chin and stretch out your hand to receive the Eucharist - then step to the side and place the Eucharist in your mouth before returning to your seat maintaining the 6 feet distance from the person next to you.
- ◆ The priest will not deny anyone who wants to receive Communion on the tongue, but since Covid-19 is highly contagious, the priest will have to sanitize his hands whenever he touches someone's hand or gives Communion on the tongue.
- ◆ Please return to your seat for a time of prayer after communion. After the closing song we ask you to follow the ushers for dismissal instructions.

## 5:00 MASS OUTDOORS

- ◆ Mass will be in the School parking lot at 5:00 pm
- ◆ We ask you to follow the instructions from the Knights of Columbus as you pull into the school parking lot
- ◆ We ask you to stay in your car for Mass with your masks on
- ◆ Please tune in to FM radio station 87.9 to listen to the Mass
- ◆ Communion will take place after Mass
- ◆ Two priests will be giving out Communion
- ◆ The priest will go to a station to give out Communion
- ◆ One car at a time will go the station to receive Communion - please follow the instructions of the Knights of Columbus
- ◆ The person will drive to the station where the priest is giving out Communion - please get out of the car and go to the priest to receive Communion
- ◆ During this time of Pandemic you are strongly 'encouraged' to receive in the hand.
- ◆ Offertory baskets will be placed in a convenient place on the way out of the school parking lot for those who would like to leave a contribution.
- ◆ After you receive the Eucharist we ask you to kindly leave the parking area following the exit instructions.

- ◆ If you watch the Mass live- streamed at home and would like to receive Communion you can receive Communion at 11:00 under the church drive thru. Tune into 87.9 FM.

THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR  
PATIENCE AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING  
YOU - GOD BLESS YOU!