



MAY 24, 2020

Sacred Heart Parish—Clay County & St. Joseph Parish—O’Brien County

FROM THE PASTOR

I hope that you are all well and finding healthy ways to live and operate during this Covid epidemic. Our bishop has published a number of requirements and restrictions for beginning public Masses. You may access these on our website, the diocesan website, or our Facebook pages. Each bishop is proceeding in different ways to keep people healthy and safe. These are some of the highlights for our diocese:

INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Dispensation—All the faithful are to be reminded that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still dispensed. The elderly and more vulnerable/high risk parishioners should be reminded that because of this, it is not a mortal sin to miss Sunday Mass, even though it is being offered, and that it is preferable that they remain home at this time.

Protocols—The instructions and preparations required for resuming public Masses are not optional. The four dioceses have reiterated that if there is a lack of compliance, Masses will be cancelled for the health and safety of all.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Spacing— Parishioners must be seated at a minimum of six feet apart, and this will require only every third pew to be utilized (use one pew, skip two pews, use the next pew).

Gathering and dispersing - Instruct parishioners to not gather and socialize inside or outside, either before or after the celebration of Mass.

SANITARY PREPARATIONS

Facemasks— Facemasks are to be worn by all adults and children over the age of 2 in order to attend Mass. Those who do not wear facemasks cannot be allowed in the church. The presiding priest does not wear a facemask for the celebration of Mass, but he does wear a facemask for the distribution of Holy Communion.

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

Access—Church buildings will remain locked when there is no Mass. The doors of the church are to be open no earlier than 30 minutes prior to Mass.

Liturgical Ministers - There are to be no lectors, ushers, EMHCs, or other ministers that are 65 years of age or older.

Ushers—During this time, ushers will be heavily relied upon to ensure that parishioners are seated according to social distancing guidelines. It is recommended that ushers seat people from the front of church to the back.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- Communion will be distributed only in one form, the Host.
- Communion will be distributed to the faithful after the conclusion of Mass.
- For each minister distributing communion, parishioners receiving communion will form a single line that incorporates the six-foot social distancing with the help of the ushers.
- It is strongly suggested that communion be received only in the hand.
- The priest, Deacon and/or EMHCs shall sanitize their hands immediately before and after the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Priests, Deacons, and EMHCs who fall within the high-risk category (over 65, underlying health conditions, etc.), should refrain from distributing communion.

OTHER PARISH ACTIVITIES

Daily Mass—The public celebration of daily Masses will remain suspended. Once daily Mass is resumed, it must also follow all the sanitization and social distancing protocols.

Social Activities—Any activities that precede or follow Mass or constitute a parish social gathering remain suspended.

Reconciliation - Confessions will continue to be heard only by appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homebound and Infirm— Communion visits to the homebound, care facilities, and hospitals will remain suspended, except in danger of death.

IN CASE OF ILLNESS

High-Risk Population—Remind parishioners that if they are among those at a higher risk (65 years of age and older and/or underlying medical conditions), are caretakers of those at risk, or are not feeling well, they should not attend Mass.

Infirm Priests—Any priest who is not feeling well, especially if they suspect that they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, is reason to automatically trigger a Mass cancellation, as retired priests should not be utilized as substitutes.

Recurrence—If flare-ups of the virus should occur locally or regionally, the parish should be prepared to again shut down at a moment’s notice and communicate this as effectively as possible to the parishioners.

Most of us want things to get back to the way they were before, but this may not happen for some time. Until it does, please remember to treat others with kindness and patience as described in the Scriptures. We will continue to make Mass available on YouTube, Facebook and cable TV even after a limited number of people will be allowed in church.

Blessings,
Fr. Tim

ONLINE MASSES: <https://www.spencersacredheart.com/onlinemass>

RESOURCES: For Parish and Diocesan updates, announcements, school news & faith support resources go to: <http://www.spencersacredheart.com/resources>

SACRED HEART FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/SpencerSacredHeart/>

ST. JOSEPH FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/ObrienCoFaithFormation/>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK are as follows: Leon & Edna Einck, Delores Colling, Pat & Raymond Gross, James Ruden, Mark Bransgard, Hilda Paulsen, Kay Filloon, All Parish Members.

Catholic Daughters will be having a **PAMPERED CHEF VIRTUAL FACEBOOK PARTY** from May 22nd to June 5th. You may have an invite on Facebook from a CDA member. If not and you would like to join and support our fundraiser, call Mary Reissner 712-260-4177 or Ann Spooner 712-260-8279 for details. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser .

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE: Please remember in your prayers Ronald Fiedler, father of Rhonda Essick; Dennis Oviatt, son of Dwain Oviatt; Bonnie Hughes Falk, sister of Shirley Selzer. May they feast at the heavenly banquet.

CHURCH SUPPORT: Sacred Heart \$7,602.50, Special Collections \$75, St. Joseph \$775

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020

Sunday: Ascension:	Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20
7th Sunday of Easter:	Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a
Monday:	Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/Jn 21:20-25

©LPI