

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

According to the Archdiocesan plan, the second phase of reopening our churches and resuming the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments is allowed to begin this Tuesday, May 19. In this phase, we are allowed to resume the public celebration of Mass, Weddings and Funerals within Mass, the Baptism of Children, and the Anointing of the Sick (now even for the seriously ill who may not be in imminent danger of death).

Again, while this is exciting news, charitably I must stress how important it is that we all remain informed on, and cooperate with, the health and safety protocols of our parish.

For private prayer and confessions, we will continue to utilize our church. However, for all Masses during this time, we will utilize our gymnasium. This will provide for better social distancing and easier cleaning. At this time, the chapels will remain closed.

Here is the schedule for May 19-24:

Tuesday, May 19

9:00am-5:00pm Private Prayer
9:00am-11:00am Confessions and Adoration
5:30pm Mass

Wednesday, May 20

8:00am Mass
9:00am-5:00pm Private Prayer
3:00pm-5:00pm Confessions and Adoration

Thursday, May 21

9:00am-5:00pm Private Prayer
No Confessions: Deanery Meeting
5:30pm Mass

Friday, May 22

8:00am Mass
9:00am-5:00pm Private Prayer
3:00pm-5:00pm Confessions and Adoration

The Ascension of the Lord

Saturday, May 23

9:00am-3:00pm Private Prayer
4:00pm Mass
6:00pm Mass

Sunday, May 24

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass
12:00pm Misa (Mass in Spanish)

As a reminder, pastors have been asked to make the following information very clear to our faithful:

THOSE WHO ARE 65 AND OVER AND THOSE WITH HIGH-RISK HEALTH CONDITIONS SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME. THIS IS THE POPULATION THAT IS MOST VULNERABLE TO THE CORONAVIRUS.

OF COURSE, THOSE WHO ARE SYMPTOMATIC OR HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 SHOULD NOT ENTER A CHURCH UNTIL RELEASED TO DO SO BY THEIR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.

THE DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE AT MASS ON SUNDAYS IS EXTENDED IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS AND THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF INDIANA UNTIL AUGUST 15, 2020.

Likewise:

A reminder for any celebration (inside or outside): **gathering or congregating with others before or after the service is prohibited.**

And this is an update posted by the Archdiocese on Thursday, May 14:

Archbishop Thompson and his staff are continuing to explore and evaluate all the possible ways the public celebration of Mass may resume in the many different parts of the archdiocese. Because the conditions and local restrictions vary in different parts of the archdiocese and because of the complexities of navigating all of the requirements of opening our churches and restarting public liturgical celebrations, all of the faithful are asked to only follow the timeline of and to attend the services at their home parish for the next month/until June 15th. This will enable parishes to more accurately assess the numbers of attendees and to communicate effectively with them before their arrival. So, while parishes may resume the public celebration of Mass at slightly different times, all parishioners are asked to only go to their home parishes for the next month.

Mass at St. Joseph Parish during this time will be very simple. We will not utilize liturgical ministries (music, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, sacristans, ushers, etc.).

Here are some directions for attending Mass during this time at St. Joseph parish:

Hygiene

- If possible, please wear a face mask to cover your nose and mouth.
- If you have it, please bring and use your own hand sanitizer in order to preserve the parish supply for those who need it.

Safe Distance

- Please practice social-distancing of 6 feet as recommended by the CDC.
- Seating will be arranged to provide for safe distance. Please do not move or rearrange the chairs.
- Please follow the directions on the signs to help ensure safe entry, exit, and movement throughout the Parish Hall.
- If parked in the front lot, please enter through the school main door.
- If parked in the lot by the gym, please enter through the gym doors marked "entrance."

Dismissal and Receiving Holy Communion

- There is no obligation to receive Holy Communion at this time.

- For those who wish to receive, Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing and dismissal.
- The Holy Communion procession will serve also as an orderly way for dismissal. Whether or not you wish to receive Holy Communion at this time, please enter the procession and exit with everyone else as directed.
- The rows of chairs will be situated at least 6 feet apart from one another. Please use the rows of chairs as guidance for maintaining appropriate distance while in the procession.
- The faithful are recommended to receive Holy Communion in the hand at this time.
- Please sanitize your hands before and after receiving Holy Communion.
- During distribution of Holy Communion, upon accidentally touching someone's hands, or after distributing to anyone on the tongue, Father will immediately pause the distribution, sanitize his hands, and resume.
- Father will go over these directions for the faithful before Mass begins.

As we resume Mass during this time, I am sorry for what will be lacking during our celebrations. We have not yet arrived at the time when we can publicly gather and celebrate as before. While many restrictions remain, I am excited about these next steps we can take, and I am looking forward to continued progress in the weeks ahead. Again, please do your part to help ensure that we can keep moving forward as a community during this time.

Pax Christi (Peace of Christ),
Fr. Kyle