

Dear Parishioners,

As we prepare to celebrate the great solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity this weekend, I would like to update you on a few things. First of all, I have included below a tally of the in-person attendance at each of the weekend Masses last weekend. I include this information for those who may have concerns about being in large crowds of people, or who may be concerned that by attending Mass in person, they may be eliminating another parishioner's opportunity to attend Mass by filling up the available spots. As you can see, there is plenty of room remaining at each of the Masses. Please remember when looking at the below numbers that our approved capacity (25% of the fire code capacity) is between 90-100 in each parish.

Second, as mentioned previously, live-streaming of the Sunday Mass each weekend will continue as long as we as a Diocese remain in phase II of the reopening strategy, and therefore, as long as the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains lifted. As I have said before, if you have concerns about attending Mass in person, or if you are at higher risk for developing more severe complications to the coronavirus due to your age or underlying health conditions, you are encouraged to consider staying home at this time. From this day forward, the time of the live-stream Mass will be **8:30am each Sunday morning**. You can find a link to the live-stream on your parish's website. Shortly after the live-stream of the Mass concludes, YouTube should upload a recorded version of that live-stream for you to be able to watch at a later time. Unfortunately, we suffered some technical difficulties last weekend, and although the live-stream itself was visible and able to be watched, for some reason it did not upload a copy of the live-stream of the Mass to the YouTube parish page for watching later. We hope to have those bugs worked out this weekend. Say a prayer! ☺

Also, there have been some questions relayed to me about whether we may gather for parish social events at this time such as coffee and rolls after Mass, funeral luncheons, pasty-making, etc. Unfortunately, the answer is not at this time. While we are able to gather in larger numbers in order to exercise our religion, that does not then give us the ability to gather for purely social reasons which are not necessarily religious in nature in groups larger than ten (10), which is the current restriction under the Governor's Stay Safe Minnesota Executive Order. We hope that this will be relaxed soon, because I know that I dearly miss the opportunity to gather together as parishioners! For now, we will need to be a bit more patient.

Finally, I wish to sincerely thank you, the parishioners of Holy Spirit and St. Mary's. You have made perhaps the greatest sacrifice that a Catholic can make for the sake of your brothers and sisters: you forewent the opportunity to attend Holy Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist for over two months in order to do your part to help slow the spread of COVID-19. My hope is that this Eucharistic fasting has made our love, devotion and desire for the Holy Eucharist even stronger! I am so proud of this parish and you, my dear parishioners!

I plan to continue this weekly email update, at least for the time being, as a way of communicating to you the latest news and updates regarding our ability to gather and the steps that we are taking to keep you safe at the Church. Please know that each of our Churches is open for you to come and pray throughout the day, that we are cleaning the Churches very regularly, that the normal times for the sacrament of reconciliation have resumed, although they are still in their makeshift places, that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed, and that there is no need to sign up to attend Mass. These are all great things for which we can be grateful!

May God bless you!

Fr. Steve Laflamme

Holy Spirit Church- Mass Attendance Estimates- Weekend of May 30-31

May 30- 4:30pm Mass: 20 persons

May 31- 11:00am Mass: 30 persons

May 31- 2:00pm Mass: 25 persons

St. Mary's Church- Mass Attendance Estimates- Weekend of May 30-31

May 30- 7:15pm Mass: 35 persons

May 31- 8:30am Mass: 30 persons