



12521 Inwood Road
Dallas, TX 75244
stritaparish.net

21 June 2020

Dear St. Rita Community,

I wanted to update you regarding changes that will soon take place at St. Rita in response to the Bishop's [decree of 17 June](#) detailing the incremental opening of Catholic parishes throughout the Diocese of Dallas. We enter "Phase Three" of that plan 27 June.

For this next phase to be successful, we need volunteers—a lot of them! If you are between the ages of 18-64 and do not fall into a "higher risk" category, please seriously consider joining our re-opening team. We expect we'll need at least 6 re-opening team volunteers at each Mass. This is critically important, so please consider joining today. To sign up and attend a training session, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you to many who've been a part of our gradual reopening, for being so kind, gentle, and dedicated. As we move into the next phase, I ask you to keep it up! As more and more return, it's essential we show each other charity and tolerance. We've learned that each person processes this experience differently. And so, it's necessary we care for one another, treating others not just the way we want to be treated but—just as important—the way *they* want to be treated. For example, you may not be afraid, but the brother or sister next to you may be. Thus, charity demands you respect their apprehension and act toward them respectfully.

Now before detailing implementation of "Phase Three," please remember:

- **We will continue to follow the mitigation strategies outlined by the CDC.** These are rehearsed in [Governor Abbot's protocols](#) and in the Bishop's decree. In practical terms, at St. Rita, what that looks like is this:
 - If you come to campus, abide by ALL signage.
 - Do not enter areas or sit in pews we have marked off.
 - If you come to campus, wear a mask.
 - Practice personal hygiene. That is, wash your hands regularly, make use of hand sanitizers, cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and avoid touching surfaces.
 - Practice physical distance of at least 6' to 10' between persons.
 - **If you have not been practicing social/physical distancing, then please stay home.**
 - **If you are at "higher risk" for severe illness as defined by the CDC, then please stay home.** The CDC details who are considered "higher risk" on their website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>). These are persons over the age of 65 or who live in a nursing home, as well as people with diabetes, liver or kidney or heart disease, those on dialysis, those with asthma, and those who are in any way immunocompromised.
- **Regarding cleaning and disinfecting of our campus,** we continue to disinfect all our public spaces on a regular basis. Also, please know we disinfect the church after every service. You can help us in our efforts to keep our campus clean by following all directions.



12521 Inwood Road
Dallas, TX 75244
stritaparish.net

- **Maher Field remains CLOSED.** Maher Field, our Sportcourt, and our playgrounds remain closed. There can be no gatherings, practices, or events of any kind.

Thus, keeping the measures noted above, **beginning Saturday, June 27**, we will implement the Bishop's plan in this way:

- **The St. Rita Parish Office will remain physically closed until further notice.** We will continue to assess each week the need to reopen the Parish Office. At this time, we still think it best to keep our offices. However, you may still reach anyone in our office during normal business hours.
- **Public Sunday Masses resume June 27.** At this time, we will only have **four Masses at 5:30pm on Saturday (Vigil Mass) and 7:30am, 9:30am, and Noon on Sunday.** In the future, we intend to add more Masses to the schedule, but at this time, we feel it best to begin with these four. **We will live stream the Vigil Mass each Saturday for those needing to stay home.**
 - **It is essential to register online before coming to Mass.** As seating is limited, you **MUST** register online for the Sunday Mass you plan to attend. As you come to church, you will be asked to show your sign-up confirmation. This will help us keep to the number of people allowed in the building. To register online, watch your email for a direct link or visit our website. Registration for June 27/28 will start on Monday at Noon. If you have trouble registering, please call our Parish Office for assistance.
- **Saturday morning Mass resumes July 4 at 8:00am.**
- **6:25am Mass will resume July 1.** In addition to daily Mass at 5:30pm in the church, we will resume the 6:25am Mass in July. **The 5:30pm Mass will still be live-streamed each day;** therefore, if you are "higher risk," we still strongly encourage you to stay home to participate in our live-streamed Masses accessible via our [YouTube Channel](#). As we have done so far, it is critical each of us continue to charitably cooperate with each other. And, as you've experienced if you've come to Mass already, I ask that when you come to Mass, please be patient, alert, and responsive to guidance. That said, when you arrive, be prepared to:
 - **Follow all signage and obey the instructions** of the ushers and clergy.
 - **Always wear a mask** except when coming forward to receive Communion.
 - **Bring your own hand sanitizer.**
 - **Sit only in designated areas** where you see the St. Rita logo and not in pews that are closed.
 - **Follow all clergy instructions** regarding the reception of Communion.
 - **Always keep at least six feet apart** and not loiter anywhere in the building before or after Mass.
- **Scheduled Confessions remain the same: Thursdays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 9:00am.** We will still not utilize the normal reconciliation rooms. Rather, please *strictly* follow the signs posted in the sanctuary. Also, when you come to Confessions, wear a mask the entire time you are in the sanctuary. And, if you feel even slightly ill, or if you fall into the "higher risk" category, please stay home. Instead, call us, and we will arrange to meet you privately.
- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please note the following changes:** Adoration will be offered now on Fridays **only** (beginning July 10) from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the Church.
- **Weddings, funerals, and baptisms can take place**, keeping to the safety measures detailed in the Bishop's plan. If you have any questions regarding such services, please call the Parish Office.



12521 Inwood Road
Dallas, TX 75244
stritaparish.net

Thank you again for all your kindness and cooperation. Please continue that kindness. Let's support each other in prayer and in acts of kindness and understanding. Your charity makes all the difference. Thank you also to those who've stepped up financially. That too has made a difference! I am so proud how St. Rita has come together and endured. And we will continue to endure. Because that's what God wants from us—to continue to serve him and his people in this place.

pax,

Fr. Joshua J. Whitfield
Pastoral Administrator