

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Basilica of Saint Josaphat,

We are so grateful for the opportunity to begin celebrating public Masses once again starting with the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 30/31. We will be following the directives of the Archdiocese in order to insure health and well-being to all our parishioners and guests.

The Obligation to attend Mass is lifted due to the ongoing pandemic. Therefore, if you are sick in any way, have a hacking cough, are sneezing, or have a fever **PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS who are fearful or vulnerable. If you have underlying health issues or are age 65, and older with health risks, please do not attend Mass.** If you are fearful in anyway about being in a public room like the church building, where we can't guarantee your safety as it concerns your health, please do not attend Mass.

Here are some of the things the Basilica will be doing to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus:

- We are recommending that you wear a mask to help dissipate any risks to others, and alleviate the fears that others have (founded or unfounded). It is an act of charity on your part as you sit in the pew with someone who may be anxious.
- An extra mass time will be added to the Sunday schedule. There will be a Saturday Mass of Anticipation at 4:30pm, and on Sunday there will be Masses at 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm, and **4:30pm**
- In order to maintain the 25% occupancy directive from the Archdiocese, we encourage some of those families that attend the 10am & 12pm Masses (our busier services) to consider attending the 4:30 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday morning, or the added 4:30pm Mass on Sunday afternoon. Every other pew will be roped off to insure social distancing. Families are welcomed to sit together in pews, all others please keep the recommended six feet distance from your fellow parishioners. The two balconies will be open for your use if you choose.
- Markings have been placed on the side aisles where you are to stand as you line up for Holy Communion. Please remove your mask as you receive Holy Communion.
- **The doors will be open 15 minutes before Mass begins**
- Entering and exiting the building
 - Please enter the building through the John Paul II Pavilion only
 - After Mass has concluded, please exit using either of the two side doors of the church: the east door that opens onto sixth street and the west door that opens to the seventh street parking lot. Only those needing use of the elevator will be able to exit by way of the JP II Pavilion
- All parishioners are asked to exit the church immediately after the Mass has concluded. Please no congregating in the back of church. The ushers will dismiss you, pew by pew, so please do not all go out at the same time.

- There will be no passing of the collection basket. Collection baskets will be placed at the exits at the conclusion of Mass where you may place your contribution.
- The parish staff will be sanitizing and cleaning the building as directed by the Archdiocese between each Mass so please do not stay in the church after Mass is concluded for private prayer or to socialize.
- There will be hand sanitizer provided, but if you can, please bring your own
- Holy Water will not be in the holy water fonts, but we will be offering individual holy water bottles for each of you to take home with you. We encourage you to bring them with you each Sunday so as you enter and leave the Basilica you can bless yourselves with holy water from your own container.

At the Last Supper, Jesus said to his disciples: “I have longed to eat this Passover supper with you.” I echo those words as we gather for the first time in months to celebrate Mass. I have longed for this day, as I’m confident you have as well. All these weeks I have daily celebrated Mass privately, whether here in the Basilica or in the friary chapel, fulfilling the intentions requested for each Mass and lifting all of you in prayer. It is good for us to once again gather in the name of the Risen Lord and to do what he commanded us to do in memory of him. Welcome home!

Fr. Lawrence Zurek, O.F.M. Conv

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Rector