

Phase 1 of Church Reopening

- We will hold Mass at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 2:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass) on Sundays. **Please note: the 8:00 a.m. Mass will be held at Good Shepherd temporarily until it can safely resume at St. Margaret Mary.**
- Daily Masses will be held in the church at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays beginning May 28. **Please note: the Spanish Mass held on Thursday evenings at Good Shepherd Church will be temporarily suspended.** Attendance at a Friday Daily Mass is recommended in lieu of attending a Sunday Mass for those 65 or older as well for those with health vulnerabilities.
- **To protect the safety of others, masks must be worn throughout our Masses by everyone who worships with us. Children older than two will be required to wear a mask.**
- The cry room will be closed.
- **Strict social distancing will be observed.** Consequently, seating in the church will be in designated pews and locations only.
- **Self-seating is suspended.** Hospitality ministers will escort worshippers to an available seat and dismiss them by rows when Mass has ended. Parishioners seated in rows to the front of the church will be directed to exit through the right front doors (north side of the church). All other parishioners will be directed to exit to the rear of the church.
- Attendance at our Masses will be limited to **50% of our normal capacity. This equates to approximately 75 people.** Parishioners and others will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- There will be an **“overflow” area in our Parish Center at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays.** Parishioners will be able to view a livestream of the Mass in the Parish Center Hall, as will parishioners and others who wish to join us from home.

- **There will be changes to the Communion Rite.** Please wait to join the Communion line until a Hospitality Minister has directed you to do so.
- The chalice will not be offered at this time. **The Body of Christ will be received in the hand.**
- There will be no missals, hymnals, song sheets or prayer cards available in the pews.
- **The church will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after every Mass.**
- All clerical and lay ministers participating in the liturgy will have their temperature checked prior to each Mass.
- Out of concern for the comfort of others, parishioners and others who are suffering from allergies, colds, coughing, sneezing, etc., are strongly urged to stay home.
- **Bishop Spalding has extended the dispensation from our Mass obligation until June 30th.** Anyone who is uncomfortable attending Mass at present should exercise this dispensation, remembering to honor the Divine Commandment to honor the Sabbath in another appropriate way (watching a livestream of a Mass, in prayer, in an act of charity, etc.).

Other changes during **Phase 1** include:

- The public celebration of other sacraments, e.g., baptisms, weddings, Confirmation, will be deferred until it is possible to celebrate them safely and without restrictions.
- **No non-liturgical gatherings will take place at the parish.**

When it is prudent to do so at a future date, and in accordance with subsequent guidance from Church and civil authorities, Good Shepherd will begin to relax these restrictions and temporary procedures during **Phase 2** of our gradual reopening plan. During **Phase 3** of our reopening plan, we will lift all restrictions and temporary procedures.

These restrictions and temporary procedures will seem awkward and inconvenient. Yet, they make it possible for us to resume the public, community celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

If you are comfortable joining us at the Eucharist, we will take great joy in welcoming you back. If you are not comfortable joining us at this time, be assured that you will continue to be with us in prayer and in the grace of the Holy Spirit.