

REOPENING OUR CHURCHES: THE NEXT PHASE

Dear Parishioners,

Effective October 13, the CDC guidelines for houses of worship allow us to increase our Mass capacity from 50 to 100 worshippers at one time. Therefore, I am announcing the following changes to our Sunday worship *experience effective next weekend, October 16-18:*

ST. ANTHONY'S

The Friday evening, 5 pm anticipated Mass of Sunday is cancelled. There will continue to be a 5 pm Mass on Friday evening, but it will be the Mass of the weekday and not of Sunday.

The Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses will be moved to the upper Church.

(Weekday Masses will continue to be celebrated in the parish hall chapel). For the time being, the Mass schedule will continue to be 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

The Saturday morning, 8 a.m. anticipated Mass of Sunday is cancelled.

For the time being, the Mass schedule will continue to be 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 8:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays.

For the time being, the weekday and weekend live-streamed Masses will continue.

ST. ANNE'S

The Saturday morning, 8 a.m. anticipated Mass of Sunday is cancelled.

For the time being, the Mass schedule will continue to be 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays.

The capacity for Funeral Masses has been raised from 50 to 100 people.

Since June 1, the Diocese of Portland has allowed Maine churches to hold public Masses with restrictions and safeguards in place, including a maximum of 50 persons in attendance. Despite the increase in capacity, the restrictions and safeguards will remain in effect, including:

- **Masks** are required to be worn by all those attending Mass, throughout the Mass, to protect against the projection of respiratory particles.
- Each household will be required to **“register”** (name and phone number) upon entering the church building in order to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
- Seating arrangements will still insure that each person/family at least six feet from the next person/family.
- Communion is offered with social-distancing guidelines adhered to in the form of six feet of space between recipients.

- ***Communion must be received in the hand and not the tongue.*** The distribution of the shared consecrated wine for the faithful is still suspended.
- Seats and pews are sanitized after each Mass.
- The flow of foot traffic goes in one direction to avoid crowding.
- All pews, knobs, door handles, bathrooms, altars, musical equipment, and touched surfaces are cleaned after Masses.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are positioned in churches.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding during these challenging times. I also want to express my appreciation to Fr. Reggie and the Jesuit Fathers for helping to make our temporary expanded Mass schedule possible.

Wishing you all God's blessings,

Fr. Lou Phillips
Pastor