

Important Information about the Partial Re-Opening of Our Lady of Hope and St. Patrick Churches May 11, 2020

On March 12, 2020, Bishop Ronald Gainer dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Harrisburg from the Sunday Obligation and Holy Days of Obligation. THIS DISPENSATION REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

The Governor of Pennsylvania has transitioned some counties from “RED” to “YELLOW” status. Bishop Gainer has issued guidelines for the PARTIAL re-opening of parishes in the “YELLOW” zone of the diocese.

The following information is essential on how Our Lady of Hope and St. Patrick parishes will implement these guidelines. Updates to these plans may be issued based on pastoral needs and on our ability to provide a safe worship space for all. Consult the parish website/Facebook page.

Following the state government directives, **THOSE WHO ARE SICK, OR THOSE WHO HAVE HEALTH CONDITIONS THAT MAKE THEM MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ILLNESS, SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN AT HOME AT THIS TIME.**

Beginning on the weekend of May 16 - 17, 2020, and during weekdays, Our Lady of Hope and St. Patrick’s will offer Mass at the following times:

Saturday, May 16	4 pm	(Our Lady of Hope Church opening at 3:45 pm)
Sunday, May 17	7 am	(Our Lady of Hope Church opening at 6:45 am)
	9 am	(St. Patrick’s Church opening at 8:45 am)
	11 am	LIVE STREAM ONLY

For the 11 am Sunday mass, please access the live stream at <https://ourladyofhopepa.com/> using our Facebook Page or BoxcastTV.page.

THERE WILL BE NO DAILY PUBLIC MASS. Father Steven will say these masses privately.

Please observe the following procedures when attending mass at church:

- ALL THOSE ENTERING CHURCH MUST WEAR A MASK. If you do not have a mask or are ill, you will not be able to enter the church.
- Before and after each mass, the entire church will be sanitized.
- Parishioners may only enter the church through the center front doors or the accessible entrance on the side of the church.
- Please use the hand sanitizer at these entrances.
- Please immediately proceed to a pew. Each available seat is marked with a strip of BLUE

- **TAPE.** We will use every third row of pews, with a six-foot distance between each person. Infants and small children may sit with a parent or the responsible adult.
- With diocesan and state social distancing guidelines, the maximum capacity of **Our Lady of Hope Church is 80 people and St. Patrick's Church is 30 people. Once we have reached these attendance capacities, no one else may enter the church.**
- The hymnals have been removed for your protection. There will be no altar servers, choir or Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist participating in these liturgies.
- The Sign of Peace will be omitted.
- Those wishing to receive Holy Communion will do so **AFTER** mass (see below).
- After the dismissal or making a thanksgiving prayer after receiving the Eucharist, immediately exit the church so the church can be sanitized. At this time, no one will be admitted to the church between or after masses (Sundays and Weekdays).
- As you exit the church, promptly proceed to your vehicle. Do not gather in groups outside the church to ensure everyone's safety.
- A collection basket will be located in the rear of the church. Place your donation(s) in this basket.

The procedures for those who wish to receive Holy Communion AFTER mass:

- After the Dismissal of the mass, the presider will return to the sacristy in order to remove his vestments, wash his hands and to put on a mask.
- He will go to the Tabernacle, bring the Eucharist in front of the altar, saying "Behold the Lamb of God ..." As usual, the assembly will respond, "Lord, I am not worthy ..."
- Maintaining a six-foot social distance to receive Holy Communion, the faithful will come forward in a **SINGLE LINE**. Please follow the ushers' guidance. Hand sanitizer will be available to clean hands before receiving the Eucharist. As you approach the priest, remove your mask to receive communion and then replace it.
- When you have received communion, you may return to your pew to make a reverent thanksgiving. Then, please exit the church.

Please be advised of these other important points related to other celebrations and sacraments:

- Funeral Masses and Baptisms can now be held following all of the above protocols.
- There will be no regularly scheduled times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you would like to go to confession, call the parish office to make an appointment.
- We are not currently allowed to open the parish offices to the public or to visit the sick unless it is an emergency.