



St. John The Baptist
Catholic Church

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June 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

By now, I'm sure you already heard the good news. The suspension of the public Masses has been lifted starting June 8, 2020. In consultation with the Liturgy Committee, together with Fr. Cleetus, these decisions had been made:

1) In order to accommodate the spiritual needs of all parishioners, Fr. Cleetus and I will be celebrating Mass simultaneously; one in the Church, the other will be in the Gallagher Hall. Mass will also be telecast in the Parish Hall. This is in compliance with the Diocesan guidelines instituted by state ordinances, which allows the gathering of a maximum of 100 people per facility. Once the maximum number is reached, no one will be permitted to enter the facility. Ushers will be available to direct the person/family to the next available venue.

2) Starting June 13 & 14, 2020, weekend Mass schedules will be modified temporarily as follows: Saturday Vigil Mass (5pm), Sunday Masses (8am), (10am), (12noon). These hours will allow the traffic through the three venues to flow smoothly. At the same time, this schedule will allow time for the cleaning crew to sanitize the Church, Gallagher Hall, and Parish Hall in between the services. Temporarily, there will be one daily Mass to be offered at 8:15am, beginning June 15, 2020.

As we transition back to normal, be mindful of the following:

- a) Individuals who are coming to Mass are required to wear a mask as they enter the Church building, Gallagher Hall, and the Parish Hall. Please remember to bring your own mask. Wearing gloves are also recommended but not required. Gloves must be removed when receiving the Body of Christ.
- b) There will be one way traffic. The main entrances of the aforementioned facilities will serve as the main entrance, while the side doors will be used as exit doors.
- c) Entrances and exits will be marked visibly.
- d) When you are feeling sick, stay home.
- e) **COMMUNION WILL ONLY BE GIVEN IN THE HAND. Once again, the practice of giving communion in the hand is implemented temporarily for the safety and well-being of all mass goers.**
- f) Missalettes, hymnals and other forms of worship aids will be removed from the pews.
- g) There will be one musician and one cantor at each Mass, except if choir members belong to one household.
- h) Follow the signs when coming forward for Communion and stand on signs indicating the six(6) feet social distancing.

i) Hand sanitizers will be provided at all entrances.

j) Those who fall in the vulnerable category, i.e. individuals age 65+ and persons with compromised health conditions, are asked to continue with the shelter-in-place ordinances instituted by the state and local authorities. This also applies for priests, deacons, and ministers who are in the same vulnerable categories.

k) Physical distancing is to be observed during the celebration of Mass by every person present. Individuals living in the same household may remain close to one another but must observe social distancing with other individuals or other households. All ministers (priests, deacons, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, altar servers, cantors, ministers of hospitality, etc.) are expected to practice social distancing at each Mass.

l) The pews will be visibly marked while maintaining the required 6 feet social distancing.

m) A person who has a respiratory infection and may be exhibiting symptoms associated with the COVID-19 virus or otherwise is asked to refrain from coming to Mass. The same instruction applies particularly for priests, deacons and other ministers.

n) If after attending Mass you come down with symptoms and/or test positive for COVID-19, please notify us so that we can take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of other parishioners, volunteers, and staff.

I ask all parishioners to be proactive, patient, flexible, and abide by all the guidelines implemented for our parish for the safety and well-being of all. Know that these are just temporary until we form good habits as we transition back to normalcy.

May God bless and protect us all during this difficult and unprecedented time through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary.

Fr. Renier Siva
Pastor