

June 8, 2020

Dear Parishioners of our Linked Parishes,

As you may know, Bishop Lucia has allowed Churches throughout the Diocese to open for Mass when they are fully prepared. At this time the County Executive, Ryan McMahon, has decided to allow Churches to hold services with **25% capacity of the building**. The result is that we will be able to open for weekend Masses with a maximum of 125 people at each Mass. Obviously **a reservation will be necessary** so that we can control the size of the crowd. Please note the "*Guidelines for Sunday Mass*" on the back of this page.

Our Parish Pastoral Staff and Maintenance crew have been preparing for our opening. Please remember that while we are looking forward to welcoming our people back to Church, ***the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still dispensed by Bishop Lucia.***

Unfortunately some of the needed sanitizing and disinfecting materials have been on back-order for weeks. Additionally, some of our present Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers will not be able to continue their ministry at the present time due to age and/or underlying health issues. It will also be necessary to educate these lay ministers in the new protocols, which includes the wearing of masks.

And so, it is with an abundance of caution and in agreement with our staff that we have decided that weekend **Masses will resume the weekend of June 13-14, the Solemnity of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)**. It is essential that we have these extra days to continue our preparation and education so that our community can be confident that they are returning to a safe, clean place of public worship and prayer. Included in these protocols will be the disinfecting of the main Church and restrooms *after each Mass*. Therefore, our weekend schedule will remain the same, Saturday 4:00pm. Sunday 8am, & 10:30am for the time being so proper disinfecting can be done after each Mass. **However**, all weekend masses will be at **St. Charles** during this time to better accommodate the **25% capacity rule**. When St. Patrick's/St. Brigid's is ready to reopen sometime in July, we will revisit the mass schedule conversation.

Daily Mass will resume on Tuesday, June 16th. For the near future there will only be mass **at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** and it will be celebrated at **St. Ann's**. We also need to limit the opportunities for crowds to gather. Again, we invite our Senior parishioners (70 years and older) to continue viewing Sunday Mass online/television and not put yourself at risk. However, I would encourage you consider attending a Daily Mass during this period so that you are able to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our parishes. We have been so blessed by your generosity during this difficult time. In many ways you have kept us going and we are so very thankful! Thank you as well for your patience, cooperation and understanding. These are very challenging days and we are determined to do what is best for the spiritual and physical health of our people.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kevin Maloney, Pastor

Guidelines for Sunday Mass

Everyone MUST wear a mask to Church. Please bring a pocket-size sanitizer for your personal use.

Since the crowd size is limited, it is necessary to make a "**Reservation**" every week to attend a particular Mass. Please call the Parish Office at **St. Ann's** (315) 468-1803 to make a reservation.

Entrance to the Church is at the Main Entrance ONLY. All exits will be available at the conclusion of Mass.

When entering the Church please keep the **Social Distance** of six feet. Families and married couples may sit together, but must be six feet from the nearest family or individual. People will be directed to seats by the Ushers. As you enter, please **sanitize your hands** and **go directly to the front of an aisle** where an Usher will seat people from the front. **Please do NOT just take any seat.** In order to seat the allowed capacity, it is necessary to start from the front in an orderly fashion. Please do not take any seat; follow the directions of the Usher.

Missalettes are not allowed. Singing for the congregation is also strongly discouraged.

The passing of the baskets for the Offertory collection is *not* allowed. Envelopes should be placed in the basket at the main entrance as you arrive. (*A great reason to move to electronic giving!*)

Holy Communion: Social Distance must be kept when approaching the Priest or Eucharistic Minister. Everyone must keep the mask on when approaching. Again we ask all to receive the Eucharist respectfully in your hand in order to minimize any risk for the Priests or Eucharistic Ministers. **Keep the mask on as you receive Communion.** After receiving, step to the side, lower your mask and then consume the host. After mass is finished, proceed immediately to the nearest exit. Please do not socialize in groups after Mass or in the parking lot. The Church must be cleared immediately so that we can begin disinfecting for the next Mass.

***We will still be taping a weekend mass so our homebound parishioners may continue to watch on the St. Patrick/St. Brigid Facebook page.**