

May 21, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters:

Welcome to church to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and receive the Body of Christ after more than two long months! By now, I would imagine, you are aware of the good news that we are allowed to resume the celebration of the public Masses and other Sacraments. Our first public Mass will be on Wednesday, May 27 at noon and the first weekend Masses will be on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

I received the guidelines from the Archbishop on Monday, May 18 and after that I convened two meetings here in the parish; on Tuesday with the members of the Pastoral Council and on Wednesday with our Ushers and Greeters. Following are the ways we would be implementing the Archbishop's guidelines.

While we rejoice over this joyful news we are asked to keep in mind that we are still fighting the pandemic and hence the opening of churches takes place under strict conditions. As we need to observe all the precautions that are in place these days it is clear that the church cannot accommodate its full capacity as it used to be before Covid-19.

Hence, it is encouraged and strongly recommended that those who are suffering from any kind of illness and those vulnerable, especially the elderly, to stay home. The Archbishop has lifted

the Sunday obligation till June 28. And we will continue to live stream our Masses on Facebook.

To better control the crowd it is recommended and encouraged to attend the weekday Mass instead of the Mass on weekend for the time being.

Anyone who doesn't feel comfortable in coming to the church, for whatever reason during this time, is welcome to stay home and participate virtually in the celebration of the Mass.

1. Social distancing is essential all the time. Family members who live under the same roof may come together and sit together. Social distancing begins from the time you get out of your car at the parking lot. The greeters and ushers will help you to be seated.
  - a. The seating will be from the first pew from the altar and going down and will be on a first come, first served basis. It is possible that you may not get the seat, perhaps, you have been sitting in for many years. Please bear with the ushers as they are tasked with this duty for the time being.
2. Wearing facemask is compulsory when you come to church. It's expected that you have your own facemask. When you come to receive the Holy Communion you don't remove your mask. After receiving the Holy Communion on hand as you walk toward your seat you may remove your facemask from one side and consume the the Body of Christ and place the mask back.
3. No exchange of Peace

4. No socialization before or after the Mass
5. **Only** the cantor will be singing during the Holy Mass. All the items from the pews are taken out temporarily. Please don't deposit anything on the back of the pew.
6. Bring your own sanitizers to use any time during the Mass.
7. There will be a dispenser containing disinfectant placed at the entrance of the church for the use of the parishioners.
8. Collection basket will not be passed around. Instead, baskets will be placed at the back of the church and you may put your offertory as you enter or exit.
9. The ushers will assist the physically challenged parishioners to the right seating area.
10. We will have only one Communion line observing social distancing. Please heed the promptings of the Ushers.
11. We will not be using the service of the altar servers for the time being.
12. Those who like to join the Mass by sitting in one's own car in our parking lot, Wifi accessibility will be provided outside the church building. And for them the Holy Communion will be brought at the entrance door. However, the communicant needs to wear the facemask when coming to receive the Holy Communion.
13. Inside the sanctuary there will be a seating section for single individuals. This would be the pews on the extreme left side when looking at the altar.
14. We will have only one entrance to the church. Please don't come in through the hall way for the duration of this time period. After the Mass the two exits on both sides of the

church could be used. This would help not to form a crowd at the narthex. Always observe the social distancing.

15. Before bringing the whole family with small children, the parents are encouraged to come first and assess the situation and then make up your mind whether to bring your children or not.
16. Ushers will guide as you depart following the Mass.

I look forward to seeing you all and celebrating the Eucharist with you and for you in the coming days. Please remember, during this time, for the church service we can accommodate only limited number of parishioners on the basis of first come and first serve. I regret the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience and kindness. It's appreciated.

Praying for you and looking forward to welcoming you back, I remain,

Fr. Jose.