



ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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The Church of Christ the King

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May 25, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Now that Governor Walz and Bishop Quinn have both issued letters allowing for return to public worship at 25% capacity, we shall continue the social distancing and safety protocols recommended for all society. The **dispensation** from the obligation of Sunday Mass attendance remains in effect until Bishop Quinn states otherwise. This is a sign of mercy for the most vulnerable, particularly those 65 years of age and older as well as those with existing health conditions. **Please remain home if you have health issues or are sick.** We hope to coordinate homebound ministry for those who cannot make Mass and desire to receive the Eucharist on Sundays. We need your help in contacting the parish office so that we can make a plan with myself, Deacon Pat, and the team of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) to implement this service.

How shall we proceed in our parishes? The Mass of Sunday will continue to be live-streamed only at St. Joseph's during the 4:00 PM Saturday Liturgy (Sunday Mass). **Effective this weekend, May 30-31,** we will return to normal Mass schedule: Sunday Liturgies at St. Joseph at 4:00 PM Saturday and 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Sunday; Christ the King at 5:30 PM Saturday. Daily Mass at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:00 AM; Monday and Friday at Christ the King at 9:00 AM. **You are encouraged to attend only your parish.** However, since I serve two parishes, the exception applies only to Christ the King (CTK), since availability of Mass at CTK is limited to only one Sunday liturgy. CTK parishioners are welcome at St. Joseph's.

There will be singing, limited to cantors and musicians; ushers are encouraged to assist in seating as we will social-distance families and individuals; offertory collection will not take place during the liturgy but you will be instructed before Mass where you may leave your offering. The priest and/or deacon and/or EMHC will approach your pew for distribution of Holy Communion.

Avoid touching surfaces. Doors will be open before Mass and after Mass. Missalettes/songbooks will not be available. However, those with smartphones will be able to go to the parish website and find the Sunday Mass readings and songs for the day.

We encourage you to keep a safe six feet distance from one another (immediate families excluded). You may park your car as usual. A "common sense, common courtesy" approach will guide us through the necessary protocols. Hand sanitizer dispensers are found throughout the gathering space and near the entrances. Please feel free to use your own as well. Masks are encouraged to be worn. There will be cleaning/sanitizing of the church after each Mass. Volunteers are highly encouraged and we will have gloves and wipes available for those who can assist in this important service. The more help, the quicker we can prepare the church for the next liturgy.

We thank the Good Lord for the Governor's decision and especially for Archbishop Hebda, Bishop Quinn, and all the bishops of Minnesota who courageously insisted that public worship is **essential** during this pandemic. I found a flyer which I printed and have posted on the parish bulletin board. The flyer has a picture of the crucified Lord which reads: COVID – Christ Over Virus, Infection and Death. The re-opening of the church for public worship has happened during the month of May, Our Lady's month, and during the Easter Season, celebrating Jesus Christ's triumphant victory over sin and death. This is not by chance! Our prayers have been heard!

Mary is with us, as she was with the disciples waiting for Jesus to fulfill His promise on Pentecost. What a wonderful sign to begin anew on Pentecost Sunday, to be renewed with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all of us!

God Love You!!!

Fr. James E. Starasinich
Pastor