



*Our Lady of Lourdes
4029 Frederica Street
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May 14, 2020

Dear Lourdes Parishioners,

We would like to share some very good news. Beginning on May 20th, we will begin to celebrate weekday Masses here. On May 23rd, we will begin to celebrate weekend Masses. We are very excited to be able to celebrate as a Church Family again, but due to the continued concerns about Covid 19, there will be changes in how we gather that you will need to be made aware. For your reference, we have included a copy of the current guidelines that all Parishes must adhere to while resuming Public Liturgies.

First we will allow a limited number of people into the church building during Masses. Regulations state that we may have only 33% occupancy. We will be counting the number of people entering the church and we may have to turn people away once we have reached our capacity limit. Please understand this is not something we want to do, but our main concern is to keep members of our congregation safe. We strongly recommend that if you are able, please consider attending one of the weekday Masses in order that our weekend Masses will not be so crowded. We also encourage those who are elderly or have a compromised immune system to attend a weekday Mass as well. Dispensation from the obligation for all Masses is still in place.

Every person will be required to bring and wear a mask during the entire Mass. If you have a child who will not or cannot wear a mask, we recommend that you refrain from attending the weekend Mass. Please remember that you may attend one of the weekday Masses which is not as long as weekend Masses, so your child may be more comfortable wearing a mask for a shorter amount of time.

As a reminder the Mass times are as follows:

- Monday at 12:05 PM
- Tuesday at 7:00 AM
- Wednesday at 12:05 PM and 5:30 PM
- Thursday at 7:00 AM
- Friday at 12:05 PM
- Saturday at 4:30 PM
- Sunday at 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM

We have changed how people come into the church. Please enter only through the main entrance, your temperature will be taken as you enter. The doors for the North and South entrances will be locked and you may not enter through them. Once you have come into the sanctuary, please use the hand sanitizer that will be located in the Holy Water fonts. In order to maintain Social Distancing, you will be ushered to your seat. There will be pews that are marked and no one will sit in those pews. We need to keep in mind that the six foot rule will apply. We will fill up the North and South sides first. Then we will seat the main aisle from front to back.

We will not pass the collection basket during Mass, but we do ask that you drop your envelope in the basket that will be placed in the main aisle. There will also be baskets for you on the North and South sides which you may use as you exit at the end of Mass. We will not have anyone taking gifts up for the Offertory. Please do not shake hands during the sign of Peace and do not hold hands during the Our Father. There will be no choir for any of the Masses. We also ask that you not sing. Singing has been proven to spread the virus.

Communion will be different. The Eucharistic Ministers will come to you. You will not need to leave your pew. You will simply stand up and they will be in the empty pew in front of you to give you the Eucharist. The Body of Christ will be given in the hand only. The Precious Blood will not be given for the foreseeable future.

At the end of Mass, the ushers will help you exit the building. The North and South sides will exit through those doors. The people in the Main Aisle will exit through that door. We will exit the building from back to front as quickly as possible. We understand that you may want to visit with people you have not seen in a long time, but it is very important that we maintain Social Distancing and leave the building quickly.

The church will be sanitized regularly. There will be a fog/mister which will be used every day and twice on Sunday between the 8:00 and 11:00 Masses. The restroom will be sanitized every time that it is used so please be patient as one of the ushers will sanitize it before it can be used by another person again. The Cry Room and that restroom will be locked and will not be available.

We are very excited to begin worshipping as a church family. At the same time we are concerned about you and your safety and the safety of all our Parishioners. Please be patient with us as we are trying to gather together in a safe manner. As has been said many times, we are living in unprecedented times and we are all trying to figure out how to slowly get back to normal in a safe way. If you are nervous about returning to weekend Masses, please consider attending weekday Masses. Please remember if you are afraid to leave your home because of the virus, please do not feel obligated to come to Mass. Online Masses will continue to be offered.

Please know that you are in our prayers.

Fr. Pat, Fr. Joe, and the Parish Council