

Dear Parishioners,

As I spoke about at Mass on Sunday through the live-stream, my parish staff and I are trying to find creative and safe ways to follow the current directive of Church services with no more than ten congregants. As of this writing, I do not have any further information to share regarding what the Bishops of Minnesota, and specifically our own Diocesan Administrator, have decided regarding a path forward for us to opening public Masses to more than ten people in attendance.

So, at least for the remainder of this week (through Sunday, May 24), we will be offering public Masses at each parish according to the schedule below. At every Mass, two groups of ten will be able to participate and receive Holy Communion, while remaining completely separate from one another. At St. Mary's, ten congregants will be in the Church proper, and ten will be in the social hall, participating via closed-circuit television. Details for how to sign up for attendance at a Mass this week are listed below. Please note that each parishioner is only allowed to sign up for one (1) Mass this week so as to allow for the greatest number of parishioners who wish to do so to attend a Mass this week and receive Holy Communion.

Please also remember that I anticipate hearing more from our Diocesan Administrator and the Bishops of Minnesota in the next couple of days. When I do, I will make sure to alert you to what they have decided. For now please continue to keep them and all those charged with making decisions in your prayers.

For those who wish to sign up to attend Mass, the sign up sheet is located on a table at the side entrance (parish office) of the Church. You are free to either sign up yourselves in person at the church, or you may call the parish office during office hours to ask to be signed up for a Mass. The parish office hours for which to call to sign up for Masses is as follows: Wednesday, May 20: 8:00am - 1:00pm, and Thursday, May 21: 8:00am - 1:00pm. Please do not call parish employees on their cell phones or outside of the above office hours to sign up as they will not have the sign up sheet with them. Thank you!

Mass times at St. Mary's are as follows:

Wednesday, May 20: 5:00pm

Thursday, May 21: 5:00pm

Friday, May 22: 5:00pm

Saturday, May 23: 7:15pm

Sunday, May 24: 8:30am

Please also note that beginning immediately, the normal schedule for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will resume, meaning that confessions will be heard on Saturday evenings from 6:30pm - 7:00pm, and Sunday mornings from 7:50am until 8:15am. Confessions will continue to be heard in the crying room of the Church.

For all parishioners who choose to attend a Mass this week, signing up to attend Mass includes an intention on your part to strictly adhere to the protocols created by our Diocesan Administrator, Father Bissonette, for the safe and healthy celebration of public Masses. A few things to remember: wearing a mask at Mass is highly encouraged. You are encouraged to bring a mask and also gloves from home. **Please Note:** I made an error in speaking about this during my homily on Sunday: *the parish will have a limited number of masks available for those who do not have one or forget to bring their own. **The parish will not provide gloves to be worn. If you choose to wear gloves at Mass, you will need to provide your own.*** It is expected that non-related parishioners will observe social distancing rules at all times (remaining six feet from non-family members). I will provide reminders about the protocols for the celebration of Mass at the beginning of each Mass.

Please also note: The location that you sign up for in order to participate in Mass will determine which doors you need to enter and exit through when arriving and departing the Church. If you are attending Mass in the main Church, please enter and exit through the side entrance (parish office entrance). If you are attending Mass in the social hall, please enter and exit through the main front Church doors.

Again, I thank you all for your continued patience, support and prayers. May God bless you!

Fr. Steve