

5/24/2020

Dear Parishioners,

As you have probably heard in the news, yesterday, Governor Walz held a press conference in which he explained how he and faith leaders from around the state had agreed upon a path forward which both allows for in-person worship services and also seeks to keep people as safe and healthy as possible.

The gist of the executive order is that Churches may hold in-person worship services such as Holy Mass provided that we follow safety and sanitation and social distancing protocols (which we already intended to do) and provided that the amount of people gathered at one indoor worship service does not exceed 25% of the Church's building capacity as established by the Fire Marshall. In actuality, this allows for about the same, if not more persons to attend than the Diocese's previous plan of limiting person in attendance to one-third of the seating capacity, since the building capacity for fire code purposes is typically higher. I have already confirmed the building capacity for the upstairs portion of St. Mary's to be over 400 people, and so 25% of that number would be about 100 persons, which is what we were planning. I have yet to get a fire code capacity number for Holy Spirit, but I am confident that it will be well over 360 persons, which would allow for us to go ahead with the planned limit of 90 persons at any given Mass. I will be sure to let Holy Spirit parishioners know if that number changes.

Therefore, I have included the Mass schedule in both Churches below for your use. Please note that the only change from the schedule sent in my previous email is for Tuesday and Wednesday next week. I plan to send another email to all parishioners with updates on the protocols, and more detail for the upcoming weekend celebration of Pentocost next weekend. For now, please read the attached letter from our Diocesan Administrator, Fr. Bissonette, and if you would like, you may also read the revised protocols that are also attached. Those protocols will also be posted on our parish websites and physical copies will be made available at our Churches should you like to take one home to read.

Also, as I said before, one of the weekend Masses each weekend will be live-streamed for those who wish to remain at home during this time, so that you can participate at home with your parish community.

One final note- Some parishioners have asked if I would be willing to continue my daily podcasts that I published on our websites even though the shut-down is over. I have thought about it, and decided that I will publish a podcast twice weekly for now, on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. You can check your parish website on those days each week if you wish to listen.

I hope that you and your family have a safe, healthy and blessed Memorial Day weekend.

God bless you!

Fr. Steve

Mass Schedule for Next Week:

Due to Monday being a national holiday, the churches will not be open on Monday.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Monday, May 25:	NO MASS
Tuesday, May 26:	NO MASS
Wednesday, May 27:	8:15am
Thursday, May 28:	8:15am
Friday, May 29:	8:15am
Saturday, May 30:	7:15pm
Sunday, May 31:	8:30am

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Monday, May 25:	NO MASS
Tuesday, May 26:	NO MASS
Wednesday, May 27:	5:30pm
Thursday, May 28:	8:15am
Friday, May 29:	8:15am
Saturday, May 30:	4:30pm
Sunday, May 31:	11:00am
Sunday, May 31:	2:00pm