

**Dear Blessed Sacrament Families/Friends,**

Greetings to you all from Father Max!

I want to briefly keep you posted regarding our plans for the reopening of the church with the theme **'Back in His Presence' beginning Monday, May 25, 2020.**

As I informed you last Sunday, I have now put a core committee in place to oversee every detail that will help all of us to prayerfully and reverently begin to celebrate the Sacraments in the Church. Starting on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> the Masses will resume with reduced capacity; namely for groups of 10 or less, exclusive of the Celebrant and ministers.

Please read the following directives carefully and help us in this process of reopening the Church.

- Anyone with a cough of any sort, and anyone feeling sick, should not come to Church for any reason.
- Persons 65 years and older are encouraged to stay at home for the time being.
- The faithful present at Mass must wear a mask. If you don't have one we will provide you one.
- Only one door will be used for entrance and exit, in our case, it will be the West door with the canopy.
- Everyone should observe a safe distance of 6 feet unless you are with your family.
- The pews in the Church will be marked for seating.
- Plan on arriving at least 5 min before the start of Mass because the doors will be closed on time. I kindly request you to allow yourself ample time to arrive and be at ease.
- As you arrive, seating will begin at the front of the church to keep distancing and good order.
- No gatherings may take place before and after the Mass in the narthex or in the hallways.
- At the end of Mass you will be dismissed one at a time beginning with the last pew unless you come with family.
- We will follow CDC guidelines and all pews and restrooms will be properly sanitized after every mass.
- For the reception of Holy Communion, you are to come up in a single file line, maintaining a distance of 6 feet from the person in front of you. In order to help you observe this rule there will be signs on the floor.
- Holy Communion is to be received only in the hand.
- There will be no hymnals, prayer cards, etc., in the pews.
- Parishioners may not be able to sit in their 'usual spot'. I ask you to cooperate with these guidelines.

- There will be a custom made wooden box placed in the church to drop your contribution into or to drop any prayer intentions.

**Please Note: Once again, I want to stress that if you are feeling sick, please do not come to church. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days will continue to be suspended until further notice. For those who cannot come to Mass a dispensation is already in place which was granted by Bishop David Malloy on March 18, 2020. You are all being prayed for during the Masses we celebrate.**

These are only a few of many of the directives we are asked to observe and I wanted you to be aware of in advance and I will talk about in detail on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00am live streaming Mass. I will continue to live stream the Sunday Mass until we get to the phase of normal Church gathering capacity. The live stream schedule for Sunday will now change to our regular 10:30am Mass from May 31, 2020.

During the week, I have decided to keep the Church open for prayer and Adoration (exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) only on Wednesdays from 9am-Noon. For the time being there cannot be more than 10 people at a time. Also starting on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Sacrament of reconciliation will resume from 3:45pm-4:15pm in Holy Family Hall.

Now, to the big question as to who gets to attend Mass, there will be an online reservation system and those details are still being worked out. I will provide you more information at the 10 am live streamMass.

I want to thank the following parishioners who have graciously agreed to my request to volunteer in different capacities: Ken McLaughlin, Jenny Bourge, Kate Pientak, Melissa Heinen, Sara Casher and Sheridan Gurbal.

I am also grateful to Jeff Gurbal along with Cass Middleton who volunteered to do all the measuring and markings pews in the church to help everyone observe the safe distance of 6 feet. The committee members and myself have attended a Webinar hosted by the Archdiocese of Chicago in order to meet the requirement for reopening the Churches.

The Parish Offices will now be open from Tuesday, May 26, 2020. There shall be no more than 10 people at a time in the offices and visitors are to wear masks.

As we move forward with hope, I am asking for your continued patience, prayers and cooperation. This Coronavirus has affected all of us be it physically, mentally and even spiritually. But good things come to all those who wait in patience! And that is where our Faith will come to our rescue. Let us resolve to continue to walk by faith and not by sight and pray for the grace as we move forward. Thank you for your continued and dedicated support to Blessed Sacrament Parish and to humanity.

Stay safe and healthy. You are all missed at Blessed Sacrament!

Peace, Joy and Blessings.

Father Max