

A Special Message from Fr. Tim

Protocols for Reopening for Mass

On May 24th, I shared that we will not reopen for Mass until all required protocols are in place. Again in my update on June 7th, I shared that Kevin Magyar of our staff will work with a team to insure all these are in place. Below you will see what those protocols are; these are detailed directives from the Archdiocese required before a parish is to celebrate public Mass onsite.

- Attendance must be no more than 50% of the seating capacity of the church. In order to ensure this, many churches will require a system (online or by phone) of advance reservations for those wanting to attend Mass.
- People who are over 65 or have underlying health conditions should not come to Mass.
- The church (worship space, gathering space, sacristy, restrooms, railings, doors) must be thoroughly disinfected after every Mass.
- People attending Mass must wear masks at all times.
- People must remain six feet apart at all times (unless they are from the same household).
- People will be seated by ushers rather than allowed to select their own seat and will be individually dismissed when Mass is over.
- People are to move through the building in a one-way traffic pattern.
- People are to sanitize their hands when entering the building, when approaching for communion, after receiving communion and after leaving the building.
- If there is contact between a Eucharistic minister and communicant, the process is to stop and both are to re-sanitize before resuming.
- Communion is to be distributed only after Mass has concluded, rather than at the usual time in the Communion Rite.
- Communion is to be distributed only in the hand; the Blood of Christ is not to be distributed at all.
- There is to be no congregational singing or choir singing (cantors only).
- Hymnals are to be removed. Worship aids are to be used only once and then discarded.
- Baptismal font is to be empty.
- People are not to congregate in the church or gathering space to socialize.
- Insurers are asking that all volunteers sign a liability waiver.
- Insurers also recommend we notify people that “attendance at liturgies is at your own risk.”
- Individuals will be needed to ensure that all these directives are followed.

This will require a large number of volunteers and necessary supplies. These are the areas the Team will be addressing, along with up-to-date medical information from those on the Team. We will continue our online Mass even after we open for public Masses.

Fr. Tim Wozniak