

May 15, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“To Restore All Things in Christ” This was the undying hope of our patron saint, Pope Pius Tenth issued over 100 years ago. We have waited anxiously to begin anew that mission that has been interrupted by the pandemic since we last gathered on March 14-15.

Our main restoration tool is the Eucharist. Now we carefully and thoughtfully prepare for Mass to resume on May 20. The main goal is the safety of all who will gather at the Lord’s Table. I wish to share with you the plan for reopening Mass at St. Pius Tenth. This plan is based on Bishop Medley’s directives that flow from Governor Beshear’s mandates for churches.

- The suspension of the obligation to attend Mass continues indefinitely.
- Those who are sick or fall into the high risk and vulnerable category need to stay home.
- Opportunities to worship virtually through live-streaming will continue and expand. All weekend Masses now will be live-streamed for the time being at St. Pius.
- Churches may only admit 33% of their occupancy. St. Pius: 100 people maximum before any allowance for social distancing requirements. Attendance **must** be regulated.
- All must enter through the vestibule and Daycare doors. These doors will be locked after Mass begins. Exit is always possible. The north doors will be locked before Mass.
- 6’ social distancing must be maintained. Distances measured. St Pius: An estimate of 80-85 persons is anticipated that will keep us in compliance. Families from one household can sit together without the prescribed distancing. Ushers will direct seating. Please follow their direction.
- Overflow will be directed to the Parish Hall where Mass will be live-streamed. Communion will be distributed.
- The faithful is strongly encouraged to attend Mass during the week rather than on the Weekend. **Revised Schedule:** Mon. 8 am; Tues. 12 noon, 6 pm; Wed. 6 pm, Thurs. 12 noon, 6 pm; Fri. 8 am. No change to Weekend Mass Schedule ( 5 pm, 8 am, 11 am)
- The largest attended Mass is Sunday 8 am. The faithful are encouraged to attend the 5 pm or 11 am that would ease the burden. No prior sign-up is seen as needed at this time due to availability of a very nice Parish Hall. We will continue to monitor things as time develops.
- **Everyone over the age of 2 should wear a mask. If people are uncomfortable or children are not mature enough to wear a mask for the entire Mass, please refrain from attending.**
- Father will wear a mask in procession and in distributing Communion.
- Liturgical ministers will receive an email about volunteering to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Lectors and Ushers.
- Greeters and Ushers will wear masks and gloves to open doors to limit exposure of the faithful with those surfaces. Training will be provided.
- Cry Rooms will be unavailable.
- Holy Water fonts will remain empty. The Offertory Procession is suspended.

- The collection basket will not be passed. Use stationary basket at church doors.
- The sign of peace involving touch remains suspended. Alternatives: bow, nod of head, smile or peace sign.
- Holding hands during the Our Father should be done only by those who live in the same home.
- The face mask should be worn in the communion procession and removed only long enough to receive Holy Communion.
- Holy Communion will be given in the hand only and not on the tongue. People uncomfortable with this type of reception can make a spiritual communion. Please maintain six feet of separation in the communion line. Follow the direction of the Ushers.
- The Precious Blood will not be offered to the faithful.
- There will be no communal singing. Hymnals are removed.
- There should be no gatherings either before or after Mass.
- At the conclusion of Mass, people will depart by pews to avoid a bottleneck at the doors.
- The worship space and high traffic areas will be cleaned and sanitized after each Mass.
- Bathrooms are limited to one person at a time (encouraged to attend these needs before coming to church) and will be cleaned after each Mass.

I recognize that these are lengthy directives, but they serve to protect the well-being of all. The greater good is the benefit that the Eucharistic celebration bestows upon the faithful. My special thanks to the Liturgy and Hospitality Committees for your valuable support. In addition thanks to parish volunteers who assisted in outreach to parish members. We will continue to reach out to those who are unable to attend Mass.

Thank you for your many prayers during this difficult period. It has been overwhelming to hear your beautiful support and participation of the lived streamed Masses. This could not have been accomplished without the Parish Team that serves this community.

We truly look forward to coming together again to celebrate the Lord's Supper beginning May 20. I look forward to seeing you! God bless.

Sincerely,

Fr Tom Buckman  
Pastor