

To all parishioners of St. John Vianney,

Even in challenging times the Lord reminds us of His faithfulness to us in so many ways.

Certainly the past several weeks have brought forth many challenges for all of us. Yet, at the same time, I know the Lord has shown us new blessings as well. I personally have deeply missed being able to have all of you together with me at St. John Vianney to worship together, to encourage each other and to grow together in Christ. Yet, I have felt your prayers so strongly even across this distance, and I hope you know that I have remained steadfast in my prayers for you. Though we were socially distant, spiritually we are always one in Christ.

As some of you have heard by now, on Tuesday, May 12 Archbishop Vigneron issued a letter to the faithful announcing that public Masses may begin, at pastors' discretion, as early as May 19, and that all parishes will resume public Masses by May 29<sup>th</sup>. While I am filled with great joy in anticipation of our community being joined together again in this sacred space, I am also deeply cognizant of the need to do so in a way that ensures the safety of our entire community. Even I, personally, will have to be judicious and vigilant about how I approach this resumption given my current treatment, but I am confident we can use the wisdom we have received over these weeks to gather in ways that are safe and meaningful.

As such, the following directives will apply to the resumption of public Masses at St. John Vianney:

- The Archbishop has announced that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted until September 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Those who are particularly vulnerable to infection, with a compromised health condition or caring for the sick in any way, are encouraged to stay home.
  - Anyone who is ill, has a temperature, cough, etc., **should definitely stay home.**
  - Because of limitations on space and social distancing, some who desire to come to a public Mass may not have access to one.
- **Public Weekend Masses will officially resume at SJV the weekend of May 23/24** according to our normal weekend schedule (Saturday 5 PM, Sunday 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 AM).
  - The 9:30 AM Mass will also be simultaneously livestreamed at [www.sjvshelby.org](http://www.sjvshelby.org)
- Daily Masses will resume May 25<sup>th</sup> according to our normal schedule (Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 8:30 AM, Thursdays at 7:00 PM).
- In full support of government and Archdiocesan guidelines, the following measures will be taken at every public Mass until further notice:
  - **Everyone is required to wear a mask to enter the church building**, except children under 2.
    - Priests, deacons, lectors and musicians may remove their masks during Mass.
  - **Seating will be restricted to 25% of our capacity on a first come, first served basis, and access to the Church building could be denied to some should we reach that capacity**
    - Rows of seats will be roped off to ensure social distancing
    - Families of the same household may sit together in a row, but everyone will be asked to sit 4 chairs away in the same row from anyone not in their household.
  - **The church will be closed and locked in between masses for cleaning and sanitizing, and you may have to wait outside or in your car for some time before entering the building for mass. Please plan accordingly.**
  - **There will also be a small amount of seating in the parish social hall (equal to 25% capacity of that room)** which will be adequately spaced. Mass there will be viewed on the screen and communion will be distributed there after Mass concludes.

- There will be no passing of the collection basket or procession with the bread and wine – collection offerings may be dropped in a designated basket on your way in to or out of Church.
- Communion will only be offered in one kind – the consecrated host.
- For the time being, only two people (normally the priest and deacon) will distribute communion.
  - Those distributing communion will put on masks, sanitize their hands before distribution, and will re-sanitize each time they come into physical contact with a person while distributing communion.
- While coming up for communion:
  - Everyone must maintain 6 feet distance in communion line (floors will be marked accordingly)
  - Everyone will keep their masks on while in the communion line.
  - Once it is your turn to receive communion, you will stand at a mark 6 feet away, remove your mask to say “amen”, then approach to receive communion and then put your mask again on once you have received.
- To best ensure social distancing, volunteer roles in mass will be temporarily suspended or limited:
  - Lectors will be scheduled on a week to week basis.
  - Eucharistic ministers will be scheduled directly by the office if/when needed
  - Altar Server ministry will temporarily be suspended until further notice
  - Usher ministry will temporarily be suspended in its current form until further notice, though the staff may contact ushers to invite them help in other ways
  - Music Ministry volunteers will be limited – members will be notified by Sarah Dudek as needs arise.

Obviously with all of these efforts to maintain safety, going to Mass will look and feel different than what we were used to. But I know that all of our efforts to work together to offer God worship in a way that honors one another, and seeks the good of others, brings joy to His Heart. Yes, each step we take on this journey will be filled with challenges, but all the more will we see the grace of God poured out more abundantly as well.

In the weeks ahead I'll be rotating which Masses I celebrate in the hopes of seeing everyone very soon. Until then, know that I remain forever grateful to God for the gift it is to be your Pastor.

Sincerely,



Fr. Tim Mazur  
Pastor