

ST. JOSEPH'S, DOURO - REOPENING FOR MASS

Dear Parishioners: Things are changing rapidly with the various protocols relating to the pandemic being adjusted daily. The Church is responding in a manner that is both joyful for the sake of our parishioners and quite onerous for those involved. We are tasked with ensuring that the rules laid down by the health authorities are carefully adhered to. Here is an overview for how things are being done by the Parish for the next several weeks. We have been given the ok to have Mass with people present but limited to 30 percent of capacity. Social distancing must be maintained and place in use by those in attendance must be sanitized, it means that several sections of pews will be cordoned off and not to be used. For the pews allowed for use, there are markers for each "Station" which indicates the precise place to sit. We are trying to be so careful to protect each parishioner from untoward contact with others. I encourage the families those regularly attend 10.00 am Sunday Mass, if possible, please consider to attend Saturday 5.00 pm Mass, where we have very less attendance. If any person becomes ill, or develops symptoms of the Covid-19 Virus, we ask that they stay at home and pray.

The parish will seek the assistance of volunteers who will sanitize the hands, welcome, and then usher people to their stations in the church. There will be volunteers from weekday Mass, from CWL for Saturday and KofC for Sunday to sanitize the area you have used, in preparation for the next Mass. This will be the procedure we must follow for each Mass. I intend to begin on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – Celebrate daily Mass in the parish at 8.30 A.M. except Monday's, and Weekend of June 20/21, 2020 – Masses on Saturday at 5.00 P.M. & Sunday 10.00 a.m.

The parish has set spacing distances in place, washroom by the sacristy for emergency only, and will expect that a few of those in attendance will have been designated to read the scripture passages and the prayers of the faithful. There will be a basket at the entrance for the offertory envelopes, and people will be expected to exit the church through side doors with the social distancing in mind. There is no altar servers, no congregational singing, no choir, no procession of the gifts, and I will bring Holy Communion to you through the middle aisle. And this too is the procedure we must follow.

In addition to reopening for Mass, St. Joseph's Church will be open to the public for personal prayer from Tuesday to Friday, from 8:00am until 12 noon. They would be responsible for sanitizing the space they occupied, using the cleansing materials made available in the entrance way. The parish has the obligation to help with the nourishment of our Faith for all our members. But the pandemic situation adds an element of restriction that makes it impossible for us to satisfy absolutely everyone. We are all doing the best we can under these strange circumstances. I rely on your kindness and patience to help us to navigate these stormy waters, especially in providing for the Sacramental needs of the parish. I know the above is a lot to take in, and I appreciate your attention to it. God bless you,

In Christ, Fr. Sany, Pastor

Some other related information

Daily Mass:

1. Reading: Doug Perdue and Tom Conlin
2. Cleaning the pews after mass

Saturday: 5.00 P.M. Mass

1. No procession, No Music, and No Altar Servers.
2. Outside the Church Hand Sanitizer in charge: Mike and Darlene Sullivan
3. Greeters and assign pews for people: Doug and Dorothy Perdue
4. Readings: Bob Condon (We will give file folder with readings; the reader has to take home after Mass and Trash it)
5. 2 CWL members will clean the pews after Mass

Sunday 10.00 A.M. Mass

1. No procession, No Music, and No Altar Servers.
2. Outside the Church Hand Sanitizer in charge: Chris and Maureen Fitzgerald
3. Greeters and assign pews for people: Margie Morrissey & Annette Dunford
4. Readings: Tom McInnis (We will give file folder with readings; the reader has to take home after Mass and Trash it)
5. 2 KofC members will clean the pews after Mass