

## Overview of the Parish Council & Worship Committee Meeting 05/19/2020

The Pastoral Council and liturgy committee met on May 19, 2020 to discuss options for celebrating masses at Holy Infant Church. The discussion was extensive and centered on the Emergency Preparedness Instruction Manual (Version 3.0) of the Diocese of Richmond. We have concluded that due to the need to maintain social distancing and the ability to properly supervise safe practices during the sacred liturgy, we will need to continue with Livestream masses for the next several weeks.

Shepherd of the hills will host the livestream Mass at 9am Sunday, May24, 2020 and Pentecost Sunday Mass will be livestreamed from Holy Infant at 11am, May 31, 2020.

The most recent edition of the Catholic Virginian (May 18, 2020) presented a brief but limited summary of the requirements for mass attendance in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Some of the requirements would be difficult for Holy Infant to fulfill because of the number of available ushers/monitors. Many of our volunteers are in the vulnerable category and as a safety precaution are using good judgment in choosing to limit social contact.

The diocese has several directives that must be followed. A few of these requirements follow:

All attending mass must wear a mask.

Social distance (6 feet) must be maintained, except for family seated together.

All individuals attending mass will be asked three questions regarding their health by an usher.

Ushers will seat all people attending mass. They will also direct communion lines and direct and orderly exiting of pews in order to maintain appropriate social distance.

These are a few of the tasks to be completed at all liturgies. It is also important to note the following instruction was also included in the Emergency Preparedness Instruction Manual:

**“Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass.** Due to the capacity limit for liturgies, in turn limiting the number of faithful who can attend Mass and recognizing, too, that those in a vulnerable category should remain home, Bishop Knestout dispenses all of the faithful of the Diocese of Richmond from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days until further notice.”