

Dear brothers and sisters!

I am very excited to announce that we will be reopening our parishes for public Mass on weekend of May 23rd – 24th, 2020. It has been a long time since we have celebrated the Eucharist together as a community, through the grace of God we will gather again around the altar of Christ.

Our schedule will remain the same as before, except the 10:30am Mass is moved to 11:00am Mass. Due to direction from the Diocese to have 3-hour break between Masses on Sunday. Daily Mass schedule is unchanged for St. Theresa and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We care about your health and well-being. When you feel ready and healthy, we will be happy to welcome you back in our community again! In the mean time, please, continue to watch our on-line stream Mass through Facebook and YouTube.

Please, observe the following rules and regulations as you come back to the Mass.

1. 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.
2. Keep the proper social distancing, avoid any physical contact and cover your face when sneezing or coughing. If you are sick or feel sick, do not come to the Church. All present for the liturgy ages 3 and older must wear face coverings, as recommended by the CDC, World Health Organization (WHO), and Governor of Virginia, when present for any Mass or liturgical celebration. While a priest is permitted to wear a face covering during Mass, he is not required to wear a face covering except during the distribution of Communion. However, deacons, the faithful, and all lay ministers are required to wear a face covering at all times. Please, wear a face mask to protect others in congregation during your stay at the Church property.
3. Attend the Mass you usually attend on Sunday's, please, sit at the space that is marked with a tape. Please, DO NOT sit at your usual spot if it is not marked by the tape. Please, take a seating from the first pew. Additional seating will be available in the commons at St. Theresa and Parish hall at Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

4. If you sit together as a family, NO ONE else is permitted to sit in the same pew as you. (The 6 feet measure will be thrown off by more than 2 people in a pew) Please, keep your children close to you, do not let them run around the Church or approach elderly parishioners.
5. Please, disinfect your hands before and after Mass. Parishes are to continue the practice of refraining from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer and shaking hands during the Sign of Peace (bow or verbal gesture is appropriate).
6. The Precious Blood will NOT be available for communion. The faithful are strongly encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand. Those who wish to receive on the tongue are asked to receive after all those have received in the hand, and too, receive only from the priest
7. There will be no basket passed during the offertory, there will be a box available in the Commons. Bulletins. Parishes are to suppress the distribution of bulletins at this time. They may continue to be available online.
8. At the end of Mass, please, leave the Church in an orderly manner, that is, we will start emptying the Church from the last pew forward.
9. Please, refrain from unnecessary socializing, especially inside of the building!
10. If you cannot attend the Holy Mass at this time, please, continue watching the online Mass. If you would like a visit, please, let us know at the office.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and for your commitment to keep everyone in the congregation in good health!

We continue to give thanks for the many blessings we have received from God, we pray that you all stay in good health!

“For I want you to know how great a struggle I am having for you and for those in Laodicea* and all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged as they are brought together in love, to have all the richness of fully assured understanding, for the knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col 2:2)

In Christ

Reverend Štefan Migač, Pastor