

May 18, 2020

Hello Saint Mary's Family,

We are excited to welcome everyone home! **Weekday Masses will begin on Monday, May 25 at 8:45 am for the Memorial Day Mass.** All weekday and Sunday Masses will resume at their regular times. Adoration on Tuesdays began on May 12th, with our normal times from 8 am until 5:30 pm with Closing Prayer and Benediction. Private confessions have also been available during the closure at their regularly scheduled times on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and Saturdays at 3 pm and of course you can make an appointment. Besides weekday and weekend masses, we will resume First Friday Adoration and First Saturday Masses.

If you are not ready to return to public Masses at this time, the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation for the foreseeable future.

In order to come back to our “new normal,” we must practice proper social distancing. The Diocese has outlined the following guidelines:

- We will limit the capacity of the Church to 50% of the available seating by leaving every other pew unoccupied.
- Other than family/household members who live together, worshippers should be seated six feet apart in all directions.
- The cry room and sick room will be closed at this time.
- For the Communion procession, proper social distancing can be maintained by limiting the procession to a single file keeping 6 foot intervals.

At this time, we have decided to keep the mass times the same. If we see that there is a large number attending, we may add another weekend mass.

To limit the interaction of all during mass and keep everyone safe, the liturgy will look a little different.

- The procession at the beginning and end of the liturgy will be discontinued along with the offertory procession.
- All hymnals and missalettes have been removed.
- Distribution of the Precious Blood from the chalice continues to be suspended during this time.
- Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is strongly encouraged. You may refrain from receiving Holy Communion if you so desire. Those who choose not to receive are encouraged to make a spiritual communion.
- The Sign of Peace will also be discontinued.

For the safety of all the following will be implemented for the sanitizing of all public spaces:

- The baptismal and holy water fonts will remain empty.
- All high use areas of the church will be cleaned and disinfected after each liturgy including pews, chairs and kneelers. Also, all door handles, push plates and knobs will be sprayed with a disinfectant. Restrooms will also be sanitized after each liturgy.

Lastly, we would like to communicate that all should use good hygiene practices. Please wash your hands before Mass in addition to using the hand sanitizer that is available at all the entrances. Those who are elderly, sick or at greater risk should consider staying home. A fellow parishioner suggested attending a weekday Mass to those who do not feel comfortable around large crowds. Face masks/covering are highly encouraged for those who wish but not required.

We have tried to keep the changes as simple as possible and if someone forgets, a gentle reminder would be appropriate. These changes are NEW to EVERYONE. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.