

# *SAINTE JOSEPH'S CHURCH*

309 AVENUE F

MATAMORAS, PA 18336

TELEPHONE (570) 491-2618

## UPDATE!

June 26, 2020

My Dear Parish Family,

As you know, back in the beginning of June we gradually started public Mass with daily Mass on Monday and Thursday's at 12:00 noon. We are now ready to move forward by adding a weekend Mass. We will begin by adding the 4:00pm Saturday Mass on 7/4/2020 for two weeks and then, hopefully, resume our normal weekend Mass Schedule of 4:00pm Saturday and 8:30am Sunday. It still will not be a return to normal and Mass will still not be like it was previously. We are following guidelines set forth by our Bishop Joseph Bambera of the Diocese of Scranton.

Here again are the four most important guidelines for attending Mass:

1. If you are not feeling well, have an underlying condition, or unable to wear a mask, please stay home. If you are elderly or in the "High Risk" category we strongly encourage you to stay home. If you have children that cannot keep a mask on or that are not required to wear a mask (under the age of 2) please do not bring them to Mass. You do not have to attend Mass if you in any way feel uncomfortable. A reminder that the obligation to attend Mass is still suspended at this time.
2. Social Distancing: You must practice proper Social Distancing. Our Church floors and pews are marked with blue tape adhering to the 6' requirement.
3. Masks: For your safety and the safety of others upon entry to the Church you **MUST** wear a mask and keep it on at all times.
4. Sanitizer: Please feel free to bring and use your own hand sanitizer. We will also provide hand sanitizer for your use as you enter and exit the Church. Please know that all areas of our Church will be fully sanitized before and after each Mass.

Procedures for Mass Attendance:

1. No reservations are required. We have extra seating in our Multipurpose Room. If we fill the Church and Multipurpose Room OR if you do not feel comfortable gathering inside you can still hear Mass by simply parking anywhere around the Church block and tune into 99.1 FM on your radio! We want everyone to have the opportunity to attend Mass.
2. When you arrive for Mass you must enter through the front entrance all other entrances will be locked. You will be directed by an usher to a pew. Families who live in the same household may sit together in the same pew.
3. There will be no offertory collection. We ask you to please place any offering in the wood collection box in the center aisle as you enter the church.
4. Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass. Please receive Communion in your hand. Those seated on the left side of the Church will receive Communion at the left side of the Sanctuary and immediately exit the Church via the back entrance. Those seated on the right side of the Church will receive Communion on the right side of the Sanctuary and immediately exit via the door by the Chapel/Cry Room. If you are not receiving Communion please join the Communion line as if you are and exit the Church when it's your turn. Please remember to continue to Social Distance while waiting to receive Communion by following the blue markings. We ask that you not congregate outside in the parking lot but go immediately to your cars and leave the area.
5. Those of you who opt to stay in your cars will be able to receive Communion by driving under the carport by the elevator entrance when directed.

Sunday Mass will continue to be recorded and posted to our website, Facebook & Twitter. Please remember to check our website [www.stjosephsmatamoras.com](http://www.stjosephsmatamoras.com) Facebook @stjosephsmatamoraspa and Twitter @stjosephs\_pa or @stjoes\_ccd for updates. We understand that these are very trying times and we all want to get back to worshipping together. For now this will be the "new normal". The most important thing is the health and safety of us all.

See you soon and God Bless You,

