

Dear Holy Name of Jesus Parishioners:

Public Mass will begin again on Monday, May 25 with a special Memorial Day Mass offered at Our Lady of Sorrows in our Pastoral Region to pray for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and in thanksgiving for first responders, doctors, nurses and those providing essential services during the stay at home order.

Regular Masses will resume on Tuesday, May 26, according to the Mass schedule below.

Monday, Tuesday and Friday at Our Lady of Sorrows at 9:00 AM

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at Holy Name of Jesus at 9:00 AM

Saturday (for Sunday) at 4:30 in each location (no Confession before Mass)

Sunday at 10:00 AM in each location.

(The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be scheduled at places and times when social distancing can be observed.)

The temporary change and reduction in Mass times is to allow for the additional cleaning/sanitizing that needs to be done after each Mass. It is hoped that this schedule will take us through the end of June. Thank you in advance to all who have volunteered to help. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be scheduled at places and times when social distancing can be observed.

Please remember that **the faithful have been dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass**. Thus, those who wish to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion can do so by attending a Mass **any** day of the week. Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to join us for a Mass that is live-streamed online each Sunday. Additionally:

- If you have the Covid-19 virus, have been exposed to it or suspect you have been,
- If you have or recently had a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea,
- If you feel at all unwell, **DO NOT COME TO MASS.**
- All are strongly encouraged to check your temperature and your children's temperature before coming to Mass and to wear masks. These precautions protect your fellow parishioners. Taking precautions, wearing a mask and being kind and patient during this difficult time are all acts of Christian charity. As St. Mother Teresa encouraged, we can all do little things such as these with great love.

Archdiocesan, state and federal guidelines all mandate that appropriate social distancing and health regulations must be observed. Holy Name of Jesus Parish will implement these guidelines in the following ways:

- There are a limited number of seats in the church. Overflow seating is available in the Parish Hall.
- Ushers will seat parishioners so that maximum capacities are not exceeded and social distancing is maintained. Please take the seats you are directed to by the ushers.
- Entry doors will be open for you to have a touch-free entry into church or Parish Hall.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter. Please use it.
- We are asking that everyone who is able, please wear a mask. This is for the protection of everyone around you.
- We are discouraging holding hands at the Our Father (immediate family excluded) and there

will be no pause for the exchanging of a Sign of Peace.

- Holy Communion will be in the form of the Body of Christ only. Communion will be done by sections, please wait for an usher's direction before coming forward. Please stay 6 feet apart as you approach for Communion. The floor markings will help you in this. (A family with small children can approach together.) Eucharistic ministers will do their best to drop the host into your hand without touching. Please instruct younger children to hold their hands still. Hands at rest is the cue the Eucharistic minister will be looking for that says you are ready. Eucharistic ministers will be wearing masks and will sanitize their hands prior to distribution of communion.
- Because choirs and musical groups work in close proximity, we are unfortunately disbanding them until the pandemic is past. However, feel free to sing out your joy to the Lord!
- We will not be using servers at Mass. This is because social distancing cannot be maintained.
- A disposable Mass program may be used on Saturday and Sunday, or we will use very familiar hymns that you can easily sing from memory. We are looking into a longer term way to address this need.
- We will have only one lector per Mass. This avoids the need to sanitize between two different users.
- Our nursery/cry room will not be available during any Mass. We regret this, but these tend to be places where social distancing can't be maintained and the free flow of persons makes sanitizing between users nearly impossible.
- Designated ushers will be handing out bulletins after Mass. They will wear masks and will have sanitized their hands. Bulletins are also available online.
- The church will be sanitized after each Mass so that it is clean and ready for the next Mass.
- Please do not stop to socialize while entering or leaving the building following Mass. This slows the movement of people and impedes social distancing. If you must converse with someone, please move well out of the flow of foot traffic to do so.

During the first weeks of public Masses, we will be observing and adjusting as needed. We may have further changes and will share additional communications on this. The parish staff views our Masses under the cloud of the coronavirus as a work in progress.

Please continue to pray for your parish, your fellow parishioners, your priests and your parish staff. This is a difficult and uncertain time for all of us. I and your parish staff will continue to pray for all of you.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Gebhardt