

We are ready to open!!!

June 15, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We pray that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during this most challenging time. Know that you have been close in prayer during daily Mass. We also pray for the sick, those who have been called home to the Lord and our front-line health care and essential workers.

We will be reopening this weekend for weekend masses and weekday masses. We are thankful as this time of closure has been painful and difficult. As we implement our re-opening plans, we must do so with prudence and caution, ensuring that we do everything possible to reduce the potential transmission of the virus.

As you can expect, things will look a little different when we return to church. Yes, these are uncomfortable practices and they may seem overly restrictive - we understand that. However, to prevent us from having to close once again and to keep everyone as safe as possible, we must all do our part and make the best of this challenging situation.

One of the biggest challenges is that, to re-open, we must do so in phases where our capacity will be limited due to directives from the Province of Ontario's medical experts.

One key point that we would like to highlight is that the diocese, after consulting with the Chief Medical Officer for the Province of Ontario, is encouraging all those who come to church to wear a mask/face covering to mitigate the potential spread of the virus. They are highly recommended. Again, we recognize this is uncomfortable but it is out of care and love for our neighbour.

Our joy of re-opening churches is measured with the restrictions that will be required. Please be patient as we are doing the best we can. It will be a learning experience for all of us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Paul Nwaeze

Guidelines for Returning to Church – Resource for the Faithful

As we are reopening, please be aware of the following guidelines. We recognize that they may be awkward/uncomfortable and contrary to our culture of hospitality and community. In working to foster a safe environment for all, we thank you in advance for your patience and co-operation.

To help respect capacity limit, parishioners who wish to attend mass this weekend are required to sign-up. At this time, we shall have three masses on the weekend: Saturday – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 8:00a.m and 11:00 a.m. We will need to know the family name, and how many family members residing in the same household will be attending. Please call the office if you have any concerns.

Before leaving for church, please consider whether it is safe for you to attend. Please stay at home if:

- You're sick
- You've returned to Canada in the past 14 days
- You have any COVID-19 symptoms including: fever, cough, severe fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, muscle aches.

Parishioners are asked to take their temperature at home before coming to church as an extra precaution.

For those who are unable to join us during this initial re-opening period, mass will be livestreamed via our Facebook page. Please note, the dispensation from the Sunday obligation by Archbishop Prendergast is still in effect at this time.

Arriving at church

- Maintain physical distancing at all times – 2 metres (6 feet) from others – in the parking lot, church entrance and in church itself.
- While not mandatory, the use of a face mask or face covering is highly recommended for those attending church at this time.
- The ENTRY and EXIT doors will be clearly marked – it may not be the entrance you are familiar with. Follow the directions of the signs. When our allotted numbers are reached no one else will be admitted.
- Sanitize hands upon entry and regularly wherever possible.
- Seats and aisles will be marked to note physical distancing requirements. Families and households living at the same residence may sit together; the same 2 metre (6 ft.) distance should be maintained concerning others. Follow the direction of a volunteer for seating.
- Parish bulletins can be accessed online, on our website.
- Holy Water and the baptismal fonts will be empty and not in use at this time.
- Please use washrooms only if absolutely necessary, one person/family at a time.

Celebration of the Eucharist

- Lectors will be kept to an absolute minimum during this period of time. Please do not enter the sacristy unless you have been asked to assist during Mass.
- There will be no offertory procession or collection. Please leave donation in the designated basket upon entry/departure as directed.
- At the Sign of Peace, a nod or bow to others is appropriate.
- Masks/face coverings should be removed prior to the reception of Holy Communion and put back on after consumption.
- During this time of pandemic and under the guidance of local medical health officials, the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand by placing one on top of the other, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to safely place the Body of Christ in one's hand without contact.
- For communion flow ensure physical distancing at all times; follow the direction of the Ushers.
- Follow direction provided for dismissal and departure – exits may be different than those you are accustomed to.
- Following Mass, please depart the church so that cleaning may commence. While it is our nature to congregate/socialize in the foyer or parking lot, we ask you NOT to do so at this time. Please maintain physical distancing.

Together we can do this!!!!