

22 May 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Jesus' great commandments guide our return to gathered worship - that we love God and love neighbor. While we cannot guarantee a completely Covid-19 free environment, we can do our best to respect and protect one another. We will limit distance from one another, limit time we are together, and limit means of transmitting contagion. Practically, we will practice social distancing, have good yet brief liturgies, and limit ways the virus can travel. We will follow diocesan guidance, which incorporates government directives.

Notably:

- We must limit persons in the church to one-quarter of our ordinary capacity, meaning at most 125 persons in the main church area with some additional in the day chapel.
- We must retain social distancing, meaning household units, be them a family or a single person, remain six feet from other household units.

We simply can not accommodate our usual weekend Mass congregations! Consider you:

- Participate in weekday 8:30AM Mass rather than weekend (the Sunday obligation remains excused through at least 28 June).
- Participate in Sunday 11AM and 4PM Masses in your vehicle via Facebook Live, receiving Eucharist at designated locations in our parking areas.

Also we will:

- Remove printed materials from the church - thank God for our lectors and cantors!
- Have no offertory collection - thank you for generous online and mailed tithes, and we will have a secure collection box in the narthex.
- Have no choirs, altar servers, holy water in the main font, nor the sign of peace.
- Offer Eucharist only in the form of bread, and ask you not to receive on the tongue.
- Not congregate in the narthex or on church property - simply enter and go directly to our seats and leave directly to our vehicles.
- Suspend all unnecessary gatherings including socials and meals.

Face masks - are encouraged, but not obligatory (priests are not to wear masks).

Hand sanitizer - bring your own if you so desire.

Ministry gatherings must likewise respect social distancing, brevity, and elimination of food, drink, and common-contacted objects.

DO NOT PARTICIPATE if you are sick, if you do not feel well, or if for reasonable concerns believe you ought to remain away.

In Christ,

Fr. Mark Van Alstine, Pastor