

May 28, 2020

**DIRECTIVES FOR THE REOPENING OF CHURCHES  
IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
A SUMMERY**

In early March Bishop Tobin dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice as all our churches have been closed due to the pandemic. We are presently commencing with a partial reopening of our churches. Our parish will commence with a public Mass on Sunday, June 14, 2020, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of the Lord. Only 100 people will be allowed to attend as that reflects 25% of our capacity. Mass will continue to be live streamed at 10:00 am. The diocese has encouraged parishes to resume public worship in a phased approach.

**Out of concern for everyone's safety:**

- The elderly and those with underlying health conditions are not encouraged to attend
- Those who are exhibiting any symptoms of the virus should remain at home
- Everyone attending must wear a mask
- Social distancing is mandatory (6 feet) at all times, except for members of the same family
- Only one entrance to the church will be used (the main entrance from the parking lot)
- Upon entering the church someone will greet you at the entrance and provide a dose of hand sanitizer for you
- A receptacle will be available in the gathering space for your weekly offering, as there will be no collection taken up during Mass.
- There will no offertory procession with the gifts of bread and wine

**Reception of Holy Communion:**

- Everyone receiving Holy Communion is asked to come up through the center aisle, one row at a time, maintaining safe social distancing (6 feet apart)
- The faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in their hand while wearing their masks, and then remove their masks to receive the Sacred Host
- Holy Communion may not be distributed with gloves, nor may it be received in the hand by a member of the faithful wearing gloves
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**Departing after Mass:**

- To avoid congregating, the faithful should depart Mass intermittently. Prolonged visits in the church before or after Mass are not encouraged
- To facilitate a smooth exit, we ask that as the celebrant leaves the sanctuary, those sitting in the center area of the church follow out behind him row by row. Once the center aisle is clear, we ask that those in the other sections follow the same pattern, while maintaining social distancing (6 feet apart)

We will keep you informed with details regarding signing-up for Mass.

"A central part of being sincere Eucharistic people is our willingness to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked and visit the imprisoned."

-Fr. Eamon Tobin

-A Simple Explanation of the Mass