

Good morning,

I am very glad that we will begin having public Mass tomorrow morning at the usual time (8:15a). We have been asked to honor the governor's policy of physically distancing ourselves from one another, so please spread out unless you intend to sit as a family. This policy will obviously restrict capacity to around 90 persons however, I only perceive this capacity restriction becoming a problem on the weekends. In 11yrs of priesthood I cannot recall 90 folks ever attending a morning Mass (outside of Holy Days), even when I was assigned at my home parish of CTK.

To that end and, weather permitting, I will begin offering the 5p Vigil Masses outside in the yard between the back of the Rectory and the Parish Hall. I would therefore ask that on Saturday evenings everyone refrain from parking in the parking lot behind the Rectory so as to permit as many as possible to maintain proper boundaries. However, respecting the boundaries of their fellow worshipers folks may feel free to come as close to or as far away from the makeshift sanctuary as they feel comfortable.

Consideration 1a:

If this (Sat. 5p) Mass becomes overpopulated we will begin offering the same Mass in the upper field at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Consideration 2a:

If, due to weather Mass needs to be held inside the Church an email will be sent at least 2hrs before.

Sunday morning Mass (10:30a) will remain indoors as it is better equipped for the purpose of live-streaming on Facebook for those unable to attend.

Consideration 1b:

Our small group of choir members will sit in the transept on St. Joseph Side next to the piano. There are only 4 singers them along with Bonnie & Kevin so the remaining seats will be offered to those who request them in advance via email.

Consideration 2b:

Before submitting a request for seating at the Sunday Mass please confirm that each of your family members are available to attend.

Consideration 3:

Common Sense is our friend at this time. If anyone in your household has a fever the head of that family should email the parish as soon as possible to enable your seats to be offered to others.

Consideration 4:

If an anniversary, Mass for a departed family member or the like is being offered on a particular weekend at the 10:30a Mass please request your seats in advance after checking the availability of those you would like to attend.

I'm certain that more considerations and basic principles will have to be communicated in the coming days but please know that the dispensation from Sunday Masses remains in effect for those unable to attend, you will not be in a state of Mortal Sin. However, as ever, Jesus has vested the Church with the authority to amend our Sabbath Obligations but She cannot free us from our obligation to "Keep Holy The Sabbath". Ergo, The Sabbath must continue to be honored in your home and with your family by some means of formal prayer as determined by the head of that household.

Lastly, when coming to Church know that we will have hand sanitizer as you enter and that the surfaces will have been sanitized that morning but, please feel free to come equipped with anything that you or your family may need to keep from being distracted (by fear possible contagion) while praying to God...unless it is a full-body containment suit 😊, then you can expect a comment to two.

I very much look forward to seeing you and to being seen by you, with your own two eyes and not on the screen of your favorite social media device.

Grateful for your patient self-restraint.
Prayers,
FDF

Thank you and God Bless,

Corrie Frye
Parish Secretary