

St. Joseph's Re-Opening
May 30-31

Dear Parishioners,

We sent you yesterday a video and letter from Archbishop Lori regarding the Opening of Phase 2 for our churches. Now I would like to be more specific with you about what you will see at our parish of St. Joseph's.

So far, the county officials are allowing us to move forward with our planned re-opening. The Archbishop has started us off at 33% capacity. We have devised a ticket system for this time. Tickets continue to be available for all three Masses on the rectory porch. Please pick your ticket up before the weekend, even if you are serving in some capacity (Lector, Server, Eucharistic Minister) and bring your ticket with you. You may present your ticket to the young man in the vestibule. Another young man will escort you to your seat. **Please remember to wear your mask.**

Certain areas in the church are for now off limits. No one is permitted in the Choir loft or the Crying Room. Every other pew is blocked off. You may have your favorite pew, but for the time being you may not be able to sit in it. Please follow the instructions of the usher who seats you.

If you need to use the Rest Room, there are instructions for sanitizing the room and door fixtures after your use. Please observe those instructions.

There will not be a collection taken up during the Mass. There will not be any Offertory Procession. Collection Baskets will be on a table behind the last pews, you may leave your contribution in the basket. You can continue to drop it off at the rectory or by mail. You can also choose to use the online giving program. Again, I thank you for your continued generosity in these days.

For our Altar Servers, we have cleaned all the cassocks and surplices. After whichever Mass you serve, take the cassock and surplice you used that day home with you. All other servers in church you may go to your dressing area and find a set that fits and take home until further notice. Please be sure to bring it with you when you are assigned to serve and take it back home with you. Please wash it after each use.

The Sign of peace will be a nod of acknowledgments to those who are around you.

An usher will invite you to come forward for Communion. Even if you are not going to receive, please come forward and receive a Blessing. This way, people will not be stepping over one another when they return to their seat. There are markings on the floor for 6' intervals, please observe them. For the safety of all at this time, we ask that you receive Communion in the hand and while standing.

At the end of Mass, you will be invited to be seated while the ushers will dismiss you in an orderly and safe manner. Please follow their instructions. There will be someone in the back of the church with new tickets for the same Mass for the next week. You may get a ticket from him so that you will not have to make another trip to the rectory during the week. For those unable to attend, tickets will be available at the rectory for pick up through the week.

Please no congregating outside the church in the cemetery. You may chat on your way to your cars.

We will also resume our Daily Masses from Monday through Friday at 8:30 am. You will not need a ticket but please observe social distancing in the church. **You will need to wear a mask.**

At the end of our Masses this weekend, we could use the help of some volunteers to clean the church before the next Mass. This will be especially necessary after the 8:00 am Mass.

The Mass at 8:00 am on Sunday will be live streamed for those who are homebound and those who are not yet ready to come out. As always, you can watch it at the time that best fits your schedule.

We hope that these changes will not be for a long time, but we start with them for the safety of all of us. Fr. Harry and I look forward to seeing you this weekend, even if your faces will be covered by masks.

In Christ,

Fr. Marty