

Hello again everyone,

I am sending you this email to let you know that Mass right now is going to look very different, out of necessity. There are changes that are being required of us in order to protect the safety of all. Many may not like all the changes, but they are necessary for now and required of us. These changes are perhaps the very reason why we are now able to return to Mass. That, and by the grace and love of God!

Because of this, all who volunteer for Masses must watch a short video training session on COVID-19. If you are volunteering you will be provided with a link to be able to watch the video.

Everyone who comes to Mass must make a reservation prior to coming as we must not exceed 100 people at Mass until restrictions are eased and it is safe to do so.

I know that we all will be excited to see one another again, but from the moment you get out of your car until you get back into your car social distancing must be observed. Each person will have to check in when they arrive, so please arrive early. Each person must wear a mask. If you don't have a mask the parish will provide you with one, but we ask you to bring your own if you do, as our supply is not limitless.

Please, if you are sick at all, please remain at home. (Also, please remember that I have allergies all year around. So though I may sound like I have a cold, I am stuffed up because of my allergies).

If you are more vulnerable to this virus, please continue to watch Mass livestream on Facebook or later on YouTube. We love you and want you back here safe and sound!

Please use the restroom before you leave home, as only one person at a time will be allowed into the men's or women's restroom.

Please fill up spots beginning in the front, so that you are not invading people's social bubble. We have provided for 7-14 ft between markings to give people a little more wiggle room. But large families will also help to fill those spaces!

For the Mass...

At this point there will be no worship aids, to cut down on contact with surfaces.

Please bring a chair from home for the same reason if you are able to. If you can't we have plenty.

The Archbishop asks you to please not sign up for Masses at multiple parishes whether in one weekend, or from week to week. For example this week here and next week another parish. Please be courteous in that way, allowing people their opportunity to attend Mass also.

Processions will not take place in their usual way.

A cantor only can be used. We are not allowed to have choirs at this time. We have also been instructed to have much less singing in the Mass and that people in the congregation should not sing. The Cantor has to be 30 ft away from the nearest person when singing. And the Archdiocese has even encouraged to use music that is generally unknown to the people to avoid them joining in out of habit.

The homily will be shorter, as will the intercessions.

There will be no sign of peace, or distribution of the Precious Blood.

There will be no collection taken up during the Mass. (You may drop your offering in baskets before or after Mass).

There can be no presentation of the gifts and no children's liturgy of the Word.

The priest is discouraged from singing the parts of the Mass for now so as to avoid the congregation joining in out of habit.

And Holy Communion will be distributed after the end of Mass. I will come to you, you need only remain where you are.

The Archdiocese has said during this time that people are only to receive on the hand.

There are lots of changes. But I wanted to prepare you so that you were less shocked when you arrived for Mass. It will be much different, but at long last we are able to return, although in a limited capacity, to the public celebration of the Mass. I look forward to seeing you!

In the peace of Christ,

Fr. Wichert