



Dear Parishioners,

Blessings to you on this Friday of the Fifth week of Easter and the Memorial for St. Isidore. This letter will offer some guidance and practical information as we resume the public celebration of Masses.

First and foremost, safety is a primary concern. **If you are ill, have symptoms, or have any communicable disease – stay home.** Persons are encouraged to take their own temperature before leaving home to attend Mass and not attend public Mass if their temperature is 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above per CDC guidelines. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended that those who are most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19 do not gather in groups of more than ten and practice social-distancing at all times. Bishop Konderla has continued the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.

Thus, if you are one of those in the **vulnerable population** – please stay home and continue to worship online. We will celebrate Mass in the main Sanctuary at noon on Thursday each week – this Mass is just for you and your caregivers/transportation, so that you may safely come to the church on that day to participate and receive the Eucharist weekly. Think of noon Mass on Thursday as your Sunday Mass.

Public Mass Schedule – St. John Before the Latin Gate – all Masses in Main Sanctuary

Weekdays: Tuesday 7:00 am (also online)
Wednesday 5:15 pm (also online)
Thursday 7:00 am (also online); Noon – for vulnerable only; 7:00 pm Spanish (also online)
Friday 8:15 am (also online)

Weekends: Saturday 5:00 pm (Confession at 4:00 pm)
Sunday 8:00 am; 10:30 am (also online); (Confession at 12:30 pm) 1:30 pm Spanish (also online)

Specific Guidelines/Changes as St. John Resumes Public Mass

- All are strongly encouraged to wear masks when you come to Mass (out of charity for each other)
 - Wear your mask throughout Mass – Communion will be discussed later
- Everyone will enter through main Sanctuary doors on east side of church – as early as 20 minutes before
- Because of the needs for sanitization – for the near future no public Rosary before Mass
 - Feel free to pray privately – prayer has not been cancelled
- Use hand sanitizer before going to pews and as you leave
- Please follow usher's instructions as to where to sit – every other pew is roped off for social distancing
 - Households/couples may sit together – individuals need to be separated for social distancing
 - Ushers will help guide seating so that we can fit everyone in the church if possible – be kind
 - Overflow will be provided in Father Lynch Hall at each Weekend Mass – if needed
- Collection baskets will be near the Sanctuary entrance – place your offerings there as you enter or leave
 - You can also mail your contribution or set up online giving – call the office if help is needed
- If we print Hymns or Sunday readings – please take home with you or throw away (one use only)
- No holding of hands for the Our Father and there will be no sign of peace

- Communion particulars:
 - If you have sanitizer with you – please sanitize your hands before coming forward
 - Priest(s), deacon(s) and/or Extraordinary Minister(s) of Holy Communion will put on their mask(s) and sanitize their hands before distribution, and again after distribution
 - Every person is invited/requested to come forward in the communion line – keep social distancing
 - Because of social distancing we cannot have individuals in a row climbing over others
 - If you are not receiving – simply cross your hands over your heart and receive blessing
 - If you are to receive – wear your mask until just before you receive – then lower your mask
 - All are encouraged to receive on the hand – receive the Host, step to the side, then consume
 - Your hand should be flat, with your other hand underneath (see illustration)
 - Should you choose to receive on the tongue – out of charity for others, go to the back of the church to wait until the end and proceed to the priest only to receive
 - Then move your mask back to your face and return to your pew
 - If you are in the overflow at Father Lynch Hall – Communion will be brought over
- After the final blessing – be patient as we all leave – keeping in mind social distancing
 - You can leave through the Gathering Space – but no donuts, no socializing can be held
- The church will be sanitized by staff before the next Mass
- The nursery and Children’s Liturgy of the Word remain suspended at this time
- Patience and charity toward neighbor will be prime virtues as we resume public Mass - given the need for maintaining social distance and the requirements for safely receiving Communion



There are many details that are not listed here, but these are the most obvious for you as a parishioner. We will have music and some Mass parts sung, but the services will be simpler as we proceed. This will allow all of us to participate that choose to, and allow those at home to celebrate with us online.

Please continue to pray for those directly affected by the pandemic, especially those with COVID-19, those in the hospital, the healthcare workers, and all of their families. Also, pray for those who may not be joining us because of their vulnerability. We are all in this together. I appreciate your prayers for myself and Fr. Carlos. We are praying for you also.

In the service of Christ,

Fr. John