



Dear Friends,

I've heard the desire for us to "open the church." Rejoice and be glad! We have been given permission to enter Phase II when we can allow people to attend Masses in the church. We will open for Mass this weekend **BUT WE CAN ONLY ALLOW 50 PEOPLE TO BE PRESENT**. This means anyone wanting to attend Mass at St. Barbara church this weekend will have to register in advance on Sign-Up Genius. Next weekend will can allow up to 80 people at one Mass. However, I can't emphasize enough that it will not look nor feel like what Mass was back in March.

Here's what the "new" Mass will look like.

1. Initially Mass will only be offered at the St. Barbara church. We will have a 5 o'clock PM Mass on Saturday, a 9:30 English Mass and the 12:30 Spanish Mass on Sunday.
2. All wishing to attend any Mass *must register in advance* giving your name and a means of contacting you. You can do this either on line or by phoning the parish secretary during office hours. This is for your protection. We've all heard of folks who carry the disease without knowing it. They show no symptoms, like the ball players who tested positive. Should any such person attend a Mass and then test positive afterward, we would need to contact each person who attended that Mass so they could self-quarantine and notify their physician.
3. All will enter through the designated front door keeping social distance.
4. Each person will have to check in at the door before Mass to be sure you're on the list. **Anyone with a fever or who does not feel well, will be asked not to enter the church and to return home.**
5. A hand sanitizer will be provided as you enter.
6. A basket will be placed just inside the church for your contributions
7. All who attend Mass must wear a mask for the entire Mass and follow the directions of the Greeters as to where they sit and how they come to Communion.
8. There will be no singing except for the cantor.
9. Communion will be administered **ONLY** in the hand. A Greeter will provide hand sanitizer before you approach the priest or minister. Once you have received the host, please move to the side, take off the mask and place the Eucharist in your mouth. Then, replace your mask and return to your seat
10. All will exit the church via the designated doors as directed.
11. The church will be disinfected after each Mass or service before another can be held.

A short video will be available next week on our website to help explain all this.

This will not be the same experience as it was last March. Sadly, we are no longer in charge of our public lives; the coronavirus is calling the shots. To protect those who are vulnerable, we have to follow the public safety rules. People's health and even their lives may depend on it.

I know folks are anxiously awaiting the opening of the St. Louise worship site. I am, too. However, that will depend on what we learn from our first attempts at this new Mass and the number of volunteers we have for the Greeter and Clean-up Teams.

We need these Teams to help guide us through Mass as well as disinfect the church after each use. Whether it's Mass, baptisms, funerals, reconciliations or adoration, after each use the church has to be sanitized again. That's a lot of work for people on these Teams. The more people step up to join one or other of these Teams, the easier it will be for all of us. If we can get enough volunteers so each Team need work only one weekend per month, it would be ideal.

We may be needing these Teams until this time next year! That's one projection I've heard. I'm sure you understand that over time things change in people's lives. For many reasons those who have volunteered today will, over time, leave the Team. If the number falls to the point where we can no longer disinfect the church as required, *I will be forced to close that building again*. Our parish needs as many volunteers as possible to help keep the buildings open. Please look to your Original Goodness and help.

No one likes the current situation, but it is, for now, reality. With 1,200 households in our parish I think we should be able to fill the Teams as needed. Those over 65 tell me how much they want to help, but can't. I hope those under 65 will catch that desire to work for our parish family so we can survive the pandemic.

Fr. Denis