



*We are a Catholic people joined in the Eucharist.
We are carriers of God's love to one another
And to the greater community.*

May 15, 2020

Dear People of God at Blessed Teresa,

Archbishop Carlson has given permission to all the parishes in the Archdiocese to resume the public celebration of Mass. This permission is granted beginning on Monday, May 18 at the discretion of the pastor of each parish. After consultation with the parish staff and music director, I have decided to resume celebration of Mass on Pentecost weekend, May 30/31. For the time being, we will not have celebration of Mass Monday through Friday.

There will be a number of points to keep in mind as we begin again:

- **Dispensation of the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass continues until further notice.** Those over the age of 60 and those with any other health complications are encouraged to participate in the Mass via live-stream only.
- **The maximum number of people allowed into the church for each Mass will be 50.** Masses will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. When this number has been reached, a sign will be placed at the entrance to the parking lot indicating that capacity has been reached.
- **Each person will be required to wear a mask upon entering the church.** If you do not have a mask, one will be provided.
- **Entry into the church will be through the main glass doors and the door into the parish hall which allows access to the elevator. The Elizabeth Ave will remain locked.** Weather permitting, doors will be propped open to avoid touching handles.

Please keep in mind that everything we will be doing is out of a profound love for our parishioners and for the health and safety of each one.

- **Please be understanding of the ushers as they assist you and give directions which they are obligated to follow.** Once you enter the church an usher will escort you to a pew. We will be using every third pew beginning at the front of the church. Members of the same family may be seated together, leaving a space of at least six feet between themselves and the next family or person.
- **There will be no hymnals in the pews, nor any other materials.**

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- **To avoid handling anything, a collection basket will be placed near the baptismal font.** Ushers will not pass the collection baskets.
- **The procession with the gifts of bread and wine is suspended as well as the sign of peace.**
- **Communion**
 - **Ushers will assist** in bringing you forward, ensuring a 6 foot distancing in the line. Please follow the floor markings that are placed 6 feet apart in the aisle as you approach Communion. While there may be two Communion ministers, please form only one single-file line in order to maintain distancing.
 - **Ministers of Communion will wear masks and sanitize their hands before and after distribution of Communion.**
 - **Distribution from the Chalice is prohibited.**
 - **Communion in the Body of Christ is to be given only in the hand.** This is to keep the minister's fingers from coming into contact with saliva or particles exhaled from the communicant's mouth onto the minister's fingers. Fewer than a handful of parishioners regularly receive on the tongue. I beg you, **please do not put any Communion minister in the position of having to refuse anyone Communion. COMMUNION IS TO BE RECEIVED IN THE HAND ONLY.**
- **At the end of liturgy,** please be patient and allow the ushers to dismiss the assembly pew by pew.
- **There is to be no gathering in the vestibule or on the steps of the church.** Please allow everyone to disburse safely to their homes.
- **It will be necessary at the end of every Mass to sanitize the pews, door handles and door plates, restrooms, and all glass. Due to these requirements, no one will be allowed to enter the church until 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass.**

We rejoice that we will again gather as the Body of Christ, the Church. If we concentrate on that – and not the restrictions and reductions – I'm sure we can once again do something BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD. Let's continue to pray for one another, especially the sick and those who have died from COVID-19 and those who mourn their passing.