

Welcome back!

Beginning with Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 21, we will begin celebrating the Eucharist again with parishioners in attendance, BUT with certain limitations!

We will carefully begin celebrating with the 10 a.m. liturgy in English and the Noon in Spanish. A maximum of 50 people will be able to participate at each of the two masses this first weekend. If all goes well – participants feel well, wear masks, strictly practice social distancing, and we have a sufficient number of volunteers to help us, we will be able to increase the number of people celebrating at each mass and, eventually, add the 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday masses.

That being said, you probably already know but just to make sure: if you are not feeling well, or if you are not yet comfortable gathering with others, please stay at home. As much as you may want to, you do not have to join us. You can, by the way, still watch the liturgy live stream or recorded on the web. The dispensation from Sunday mass attendance continues in place.

In order to ensure we adhere to the maximum number of participants, we will need to put a reservation system in place. You can make a reservation by calling the Parish Office beginning on the Monday before Fathers' Day, during normal office hours. You can also email a request for a reservation, also beginning on the Monday before Fathers' Day, to chsschaumburg@gmail.com. In making your reservation we will need your name, the names of your family members who will be joining you (and who live with you) and your phone number. We ask that you limit this to five people initially to allow as many families as possible to join us this first weekend.

This is where it gets sticky because, for the time being, we can only have a maximum of 50 people in church. Please don't think that I came up with that limit because I was up late last night and I'm crabby today -- it is the best we can do right now while trying to keep everyone as safe as possible. And please remember that we all want the same thing, but sometimes we have to wait a little longer.

If you are able to secure a reservation for this first Sunday, we ask that you not request another reservation for at least three weeks. We want to afford the opportunity to participate at Mass in person during the re-opening period to as many parishioners as possible.

Some specifics:

- If you are able to get a reservation when you call (if we haven't reached the limit of fifty when you call) and you find out you can't come, please call and let us know. We will keep a waiting list if we reach 50.

- If you e-mail your reservation request, please know that you do not automatically have a reservation until you get a positive response from the office. The office will e-mail you a confirmation that you have a reservation ASAP.
- Before you come to church, please check your temperature, make sure you bring a face mask, and if you don't feel well, please stay home, for your health and that of others. You might also consider using the restroom before you leave home to minimize the number who have to use the church's facilities.
- When you arrive at church, please enter through the main entrance only. I know many would prefer the South doors, but we need to account for everyone. A "team" of parishioner volunteers will say hello, ask you to let them help you sanitize your hands, check off your name and phone number and ask you some questions about your health. Your name and phone number are required in the event that someone in the group of 50 at the Liturgy you went to gets the virus, then we can call you and let you know that you should get tested.
- And being pretty practical and realistic, you know better than I do that our financial support of our parish is crucial, especially now. Please continue to contribute as you are able. There will be a clear plastic box in the center aisle for any contributions you wish to make. God bless you for your belief in your parish and your willingness to do what you can financially to keep it vibrant.
- Your cooperation with the volunteer team and with the requirements of distancing and mask wearing will make a huge difference in when we can expand the number of liturgies and gather more folks. Along this line, the great custom of gathering after mass in the gathering space has to be put on hold for a while. The Priests and Deacons and Hospitality Ministers will not be doing what has been the custom, saying hello and socializing. Please skip this part of our Sunday experience for the time being, yes, even the coffee and donuts! (Lord save us!)
- There will be a video published with specific requirements and requests to observe during the liturgy, for example, no exchanging greetings of peace beyond a gesture and receiving communion in the hand only. (I know, I know – too much to remember)!

Please spread the word, letting people know about getting a reservation, etc. And as much of a nuisance as this can be, I'll bet you have heard enough medical people and scientists say, "This virus is serious. It is deadly and, unless we try our best to stop its spread, it will flare up again, probably worse." To say it another way, all of this is being done with the best information that we have to protect each other as best we can. I hope we can see one another at church.

Peace!

Father John