



Holy Trinity Parish

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Dear friends of God,

I wish that I had gotten this letter out sooner. It might not be timely, but it is good news. We have been given permission to begin to celebrate public masses. We will begin our typical schedule Wednesday, May 27. We will celebrate Mass together on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. and on the weekend at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 am. on Sundays. If you would like to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), for the time being I ask that you call me at the parish office to set up an appointment. I am thinking of different ways to “go to confession” that might allow for more physical distancing than our confessionals allow for at this moment.

Bishop Gruss has given us parameters to follow for the resumption of public Masses. We are not allowed to use more than 25 percent of our seating capacity. For us that means 140 people may attend Mass when we use the balcony. We will also need to honor 6 feet of physical distancing. To assist with that, we are going to tape off every other pew. We are also asking that people wear masks to protect each other. I would ask that you honor these expectations. They are reasonable and are there for the protection of each of us. We want to come together in the best way we can to celebrate the Eucharist, but we want to do so safely. The Eucharist is healing, but God has also graced medical professionals with intelligence to give us the wisdom to keep each other healthy.

The Mass will look different for some time to come. It might feel odd, but we are doing our best to come together as the Body of Christ in a way that honors the sacredness of the Mass and keeps us safe in the time of a pandemic. We will be guided by the love of God and the love of each other. And as the Body of Christ, we will continue to journey with each other in these challenging and unprecedented times. I find it meaningful that our first weekend Masses will be celebrated on Pentecost. Pentecost is when we remember the coming of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Traditionally we think of the Holy Spirit as the love flowing between the Father and the Son. It is this Love of God that will guide us as his beloved children. Let us allow ourselves to be embraced by God’s love as we learn what it means to be Eucharistic people during this time of pandemic.

On the other side of this letter you will find the directives that we are to follow for the time being. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Much love,

Fr. Kevin M. Maksym



DIRECTIVES FOR RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASSES

Catholic Diocese of Saginaw + May 15, 2020

At the discretion of the pastor or pastoral administrator/director of parish life, a parish in the Diocese of Saginaw **is permitted to resume public Masses on Monday, May 25, 2020** under the conditions below and as outlined in the Liturgical Guidelines and Protocols for Resumption of Public Masses.

All parishes in the Diocese of Saginaw **will resume the celebration of public Mass by Saturday, May 30, 2020** under the same conditions.

❖ The following are necessary conditions for the resumption of public Masses:

- *Face-coverings/masks are to be worn by the faithful in and around the church.*
- *Cleaning and sanitizing of church facilities using proper techniques before or after Masses using [CDC guidelines](#).*
- *Physical distancing must be practiced in the church and on the church property.*
- *Parish churches are not to exceed 20-25% of total capacity for the church.*
- *This limit should allow people to remain at least six feet apart.*

Bear in mind:

- *Depending on church layout, this number may have to be less than 20-25% of the total capacity.*
 - *An additional location on the church property (e.g. gathering space or social hall) may be used as an “overflow” for additional people desiring to attend public Mass.*
 - *This should not exceed the same 20-25% capacity for the space.*
 - *Both indoor and outdoor Masses require adherence to strict physical distancing guidelines.*
- ❖ Funerals, Weddings, and Baptisms during Mass may resume along the same timeline and under the same conditions as above.
- ❖ All non-liturgical gatherings should continue to be suspended. At the discretion of the pastor or pastoral administrator/director of parish life, exceptions may be made if attendees observe strict health and safety guidelines and the gathering does not exceed 10 persons at any one time.
- ❖ All the faithful in the Diocese are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to attend Mass through Sunday, August 30, 2020.