

To the people of St. Francis parish

I hope this message finds you well.

On May 25<sup>th</sup> we can resume public Masses. There are guidelines that we must follow from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. They are in conjunction with public health norms during this time.

### **Mass Attendance and Sunday Mass Dispensation**

The dispensation from Sunday Mass is still in effect for the foreseeable future. This means that if you are at risk, sick, afraid that you will get sick or get your family sick please stay home and pray with us online. This also means that every Mass is the same because weekend masses do not carry an obligation to attend. If you would like to attend but wary of bigger crowds, please come during the week where there most likely will be less people and more space to socially distance yourself. Masks are encouraged to be worn at any Mass you attend.

### **Reception of the Eucharist**

The reception of the Eucharist is only inside of Mass only at this time. (The only exception is for Viaticum, the final reception of the Eucharist in this life). Those distributing communion must wear a mask when distributing at Mass. They will also sanitize before and after the distribution of Holy Communion. I will wear a mask when distributing Holy Communion but not at other times of the Mass.

We will look at the trends of Mass attendance over the first few weeks of June and see if we need to add more Masses either on Sunday or during the week. This does not mean that we will do that, just we will assess the trends. We will also assess our procedures to see if anything needs to be altered.

### **Church Setup and Guidelines for Attendance**

Every other pew will be roped off and not to be sat in. This is to ensure social distance. Chairs will be set up in Friendship Hall and John Paul II Room six feet apart. These are the only chairs that will be set out. Those who are family or arrive in the same car can sit next to each other at Mass. If you are not in these categories then you must stay 6 feet apart from each other. **That is six floor tiles in the church and Friendship Hall.**

We ask that the church is filled first, then Friendship hall and finally John Paul II. The masses will be streamed into those two rooms. People have asked what happens when the church and those rooms are full. We will ask you to please wait outside or in your car. Please stream the Mass there. We will bring communion to the door (More information and direction will be given later.) As always, please keep social distance.

For Communion, those attending will not leave the pews. This is because we have bottlenecks in our church that cannot keep social distance for people going to and returning from reception of Holy Communion. The minister of the Eucharist will come to you (See videos illustrating below on this webpage) . Reception of Holy Communion is encouraged in the hand. The Precious Blood will not be distributed at this time. This will be the same with John Paul II and Friendship Hall, the minister will come to you.

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We will need to sanitize the church and wherever people sit after every Mass. So at this time, even Sunday Masses will be shorter. They are asking us to keep Masses to no longer than about 40 minutes.

When Mass has completed please limit social interaction inside the church building. Social interaction outside is encouraged with social distance. The doors will be open to the outside and the Church to drive down multiple hands touching the doors. The nursery is closed so the Gathering Space is for people who may need to stand there to take their child to a place outside of the Church or the other rooms at this time.

We are also limiting for the first few weeks servers and lectors. This is to drive down movement and common areas.

Overall we must remember to follow what our leaders are asking us to do. This will look different for a while, and I don't know how long that will be. We need to be patient, and know that even though it looks different Christ is still present.

Have a blessed week.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian