

Dear Friends in Christ,

This coming weekend, we will begin the process of reopening the church building for private prayer, confessions and baptisms. Following the guidance and regulations of the Archdiocese, we have been certified to do so. At this time, Sunday Mass will not be offered. We need to have the church open for prayer or sacramental celebrations multiple times before being approved by the Archdiocese to celebrate Mass.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- On Saturdays from 3-5pm, the church will be open for private prayer and confessions.
- There is a maximum of 10 people to pray in the church at any given time. If there are people waiting, one's time will be limited to 20 minutes. An usher will let you know when your time is complete.
- Masks or facial coverings must be worn at all times, and social distancing measures will be enforced and remain in effect.
- If you are sick in any way, or exhibit symptoms, you may not be allowed to enter. Please stay at home if you are vulnerable or not feeling well; you enter this public space at your own risk.

WHEN YOU ENTER

- The only entrance and exit that will be open is the Webster Street entrance.
- You will be welcomed by some ushers/greeters. They may ask your name for contact tracing purposes, in case it is later determined that someone who was present later was diagnosed with COVID-19. These records of attendance are destroyed after 14 days.
- The greeter will ask you to sanitize your hands before leading you to a seat.
- Seats in the pews in which you can pray are clearly marked with a cross. Markings on the floor indicate six-foot intervals. All people entering will move up the center aisle.
- At this time, candles are not available. You must stay in your assigned seat and not move around the church.

CONFESSIONS

- If you would like to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, please inform an usher at the front of the church. They will direct you to the line for reconciliation.
- Reconciliation will be celebrated in the soup kitchen with social distancing measures. You will have the option of kneeling behind a screen or sitting in a chair. The soup kitchen was chosen to protect your privacy and be an open space.
- After the confession is over, you may return to the seat you were assigned to conclude your time of prayer or leave the church.

WHEN YOU EXIT

- Please exit out down the side aisles when you are done.

- Where you were seated will be sanitized by our cleaning crew before the next person sits down.

I know that these changes may feel awkward at first. We are doing our best to minimize the risk of spreading infection and keep everyone healthy. I continue to ask for your patience with me and your fellow parishioners as we navigate this reopening.

Many have asked when we will have Mass again. We need three weekends of having the church open before we can request permission to have public Mass. We also will need more volunteers to greet people, act as ushers and clean up after each use of the church building. My hope is that this goes smoothly and we can begin to celebrate Mass on Sunday by mid-July. The number of masses and the celebration of daily Mass will depend largely on the availability of volunteers. If you would like to help, and are not part of the vulnerable population, please contact me at jdixon20@depaul.edu or 773-325-4155. In the meantime, Sunday Mass will continue to be streamed on our Facebook page. Again, you do not need a Facebook account to watch the mass or other programming we have online.

As we move into this next phase, I want to thank you for your prayers and support during this challenging time. We will continue to work and pray together and come out on the other side of this pandemic and time of economic hardship. And we will be a stronger community.

In St. Vincent,

Fr. Jeremy Dixon, cm