

BREAKING

from St. Anne Parish that you need to know as we prepare to resume the public celebration of Mass

RETURN

THE EXTRAORDINARY NATURE OF WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO REQUIRES WE DO IT WITH GREAT PATIENCE, ATTENTIVENESS AND CARE

During one of the first weeks we were not able to gather for worship a pastor in an on-line Mass addressed the sadness and frustration of not being able to come to Mass. "But, when this is done," he said hopefully, "we will do it with a roar!"

Among our discoveries in these intervening months is that *this* isn't going to be *over* for a long time. Now, as we anticipate coming back to church for Mass we realize it will be more like a whisper than a roar.

What we know in anticipating the re-opening of churches, as well as many other aspects of public life, is this: IT IS NOT GOING TO BE THE SAME AS IT WAS! Accepting the invitation to return to the public celebration of Mass carries with it the responsibility of reviewing and honoring established guidelines, which are listed and explained in this newsletter.

Along with that comes an appreciation for the extraordinary nature of what we are about

to do. Sports leagues, concerts in the park, community and church festivals, summer camps and any number of group-centered events have been canceled for the fore-



In all things charity.

- St. Augustine

seeable future. In the midst of that we are making a bold and possibly risky move in bringing people together. It is imperative we take every step possible to do this responsibly.

Please take the time to review the procedures that will accompany our presence and participation at Mass for the next few months. This includes the essential consideration as to whether we should even come to Mass.

As I said in the video announcing the resumption of Mass, we do well to remember the words of St. Augustine: "In all things charity." More than ever, let us be gracious and charitable. — Fr. Tom Lindner

A QUICK OVERVIEW

Here are highlights of considerations and procedures regarding our resumption of the public celebration of Mass. Further explanation and detail are offered elsewhere in this newsletter.

- ◆ The parish guidelines coincide with instructions from Bishop Callahan and state and federal health authorities.
- ◆ The obligation to attend Mass is waived.
- ◆ People who are at-risk because of age or health condition are encouraged to stay home.
- ◆ Masks are strongly encouraged. People are asked to bring their own masks, although masks also will be available.
- ◆ Physical distancing of six feet or more must be honored.
- ◆ The number of people allowed to attend Mass will be limited.
- ◆ Public celebration of Mass resumes May 30/31 with Mass at 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ◆ The 6 p.m. Mass will not resume until fall.
- ◆ Reservations are necessary to attend Mass.
- ◆ Everyone will enter church by way of the main (west) entrance.
- ◆ Admittance to church will begin 30 minutes before the Mass time.
- ◆ Worshipers will be guided to their seats by greeters/ushers.

Again, please review the more detailed information throughout this newsletter.

PREPARING TO RETURN FOR MASS

Going down the list

These considerations and guidelines coincide with procedures identified by Bishop Callahan and state and federal health authorities. They will govern the celebration of Mass at St. Anne Parish for the foreseeable future.

If you have questions or seek clarification, please email or call Fr. Tom.

WHAT'S NEEDED FIRST

In line with Bishop Callahan's directives, the parish has stocked up on hand sanitizer, masks and the disinfectants needed for the cleaning of all furnishings, door fixtures and railings after every Mass. Ministers are being recruited and trained to properly welcome and guide parishioners who come to Mass. As Bishop Callahan has said, "Simply to open the doors without a structured plan in place hoping that people do the right thing would be irresponsible of us all." Procedures have been established by the staff, in consultation with the Pastoral and Finance councils, but practice may also indicate a need to modify the procedures.

WHEN WILL WE RETURN FOR MASS?

The public celebration of Mass at St. Anne's will resume May 30/31, the Solemnity of Pentecost and end of the Easter season. Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Saturday, and 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

NO 6 PM MASS: During this transitional time, the 6 p.m. Sunday Mass will not be celebrated. We hope to resume the Sunday night Mass on Sept. 6. This step is being taken because those coming to Mass must be familiar with all precautions and procedures. This would be difficult since many people at Sunday night Mass are visitors. We also must be sure that all Masses have sufficient numbers of trained ministers.

THERE IS NO OBLIGATION

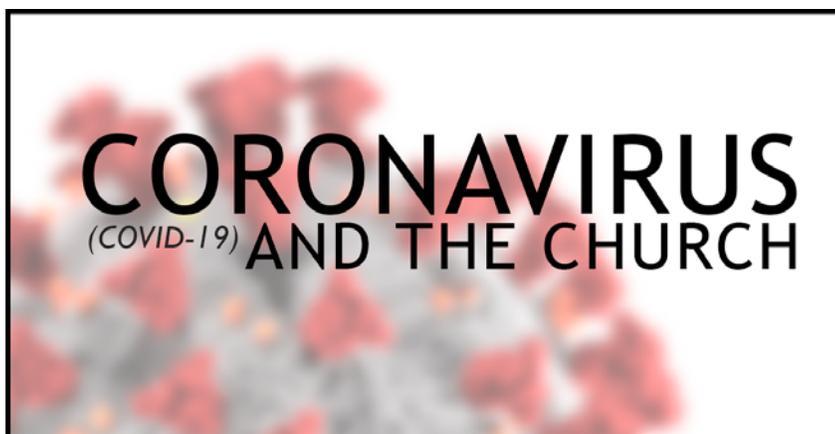
As has been true since early March, the obligation to attend Mass has been waived by Bishop Callahan: "No one is required ... to attend Mass until further notice."

DETERMINING WHETHER TO ATTEND MASS

The diocesan guidelines state: "All those defined by the health department as more vulnerable – 60 years of age and older, those with compromised immune systems, those with underlying health conditions, those who are especially anxious about being in a large

group, etc.) should be encouraged to stay at home." The bishop says, "In fact, at this time I encourage those over 65 and particularly those with underlying health conditions to stay home."

IF YOU ARE SICK IN ANY WAY: If you are sick please stay home. This is always what the church encourages.



LIMITING ATTENDANCE AT MASS

Because of the risk of having large numbers of people gathered, diocesan guidelines will limit attendance to 25 percent of the church's seating capacity of 540. That means only 135 people are allowed for each Mass. While undesirable and unappealing, this is essential if we are to honor safety precautions.

MAKING RESERVATIONS: Just as you would make reservations at a restaurant, parishioners will be asked each week to reserve spots at Mass. That can be done beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday of each week beginning May 27, by going to stanneswausau.org and using an on-line sign-up procedure. If you do not have internet access, call the parish office beginning at 9 a.m. Please be flexible in terms of which Masses have available seating. Registration will end once seating for all liturgies is full. We will regularly assess how this is working and make necessary adjustments. We might also ask that people who have attended regularly stay home for a week or two, allowing others to attend.

WHEN WE ARRIVE & WHERE WE ENTER

Our need to control access to the church will affect

when we arrive and where we enter the church. Worshipers are asked not to arrive earlier than 30 minutes before the start of Mass — 3:30, 8 and 10. If you arrive early, please remain in your car to honor physical distancing requirements.

Worshipers will enter only through the main (west) entrance, which is easily accessible from the primary parking lot. Handicapped accessible parking spots are at that entrance, although many people who might utilize those spots may choose to honor the precautions regarding age and health condition. Doors at other entrances will be locked.

Once you have entered the church, a greeter wearing a mask and protective gloves will offer a one-time-use worship aid, a staff member will have masks for those who did not bring their own, and other greeters will help you locate your seat.

MASKS AND DISTANCING

Those coming to Mass are strongly encouraged to wear masks or some kind of protective face covering, as when going to the grocery store or any public place. Please bring your own mask, although masks also will be available. The masks would be removed, or slipped down the face, only as you are consuming the Body of Christ at communion.

All physical distancing rules must be honored. People not living in the same household should be at a minimum distance of 6 feet. This includes the communion procession and when exiting at the end of Mass. Pews and chairs will be cordoned off to accommodate physical distancing.

WHERE WE'LL SIT

With strict attendance limits, seating is going to be challenging. If you have a usual spot, please realize you will probably not be able to sit there. Also, it will not work for people to simply sit at the end of rows. We all need to move into the pew or row of chairs. Because of our space limitations, it may need to be determined in advance where people will sit. We need to be flexible and courteous in being attentive to one another.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Because of distancing demands, this is going to be a complicated procedure. Our aisles are narrow and so to allow for sufficient distance on each side of someone coming to communion will be challenging. Specifics of

the communion procession will be explained before Mass, but again please be patient and attentive.

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST: Regrettably, the Precious Blood will not be offered to the assembly for the foreseeable future.

THE BODY OF CHRIST: Those receiving the Body of Christ are asked to receive it in the hand.



MASS ON-LINE: St. Anne will offer a live-stream of our 4 p.m. Saturday Mass. A link to that liturgy will be sent to all parishioners in an email after the Mass and be available through the web site and Facebook. Bunny slippers remain optional.

OTHER THINGS YOU'LL NOTICE

HOLY WATER: The baptismal font and holy water fonts remain dry to avoid the spread of contagions.

HYMNALS: The Gather hymnals have been put into storage because of the risk of multiple people touching the books and potentially spreading the virus. A one-time use worship aid/bulletin will be given to you as you arrive for Mass and then either be taken home or put in recycling.

CLEANING: All pew surfaces, railings, door handles and bathrooms must be cleaned after every Mass. Volunteers will be recruited to help with this work.

MINISTRIES: Because of distancing and other risks, the role of servers, greeters/ushers and eucharistic ministers will be modified dramatically. The number of ministers needed at a given Mass for traditional roles also will change, but people may be needed in other roles. Please be attentive to requests for help in new or evolving roles of ministry.

LEAVING MASS

All church doorways will be available for departure at the end of Mass. A procedure for an orderly and safe departure will be announced. Most importantly, not everyone will be able to leave at once and distancing guidelines must continue to be honored.

OFFICE RE-OPENING: Staff will return to the parish office and resume regular hours June 1. Visitors are encouraged to honor all physical distancing guidelines and wear masks.

PASTORAL CARE: Pastoral care of people in hospitals and nursing homes remains severely limited. Visits are tightly controlled, if allowed at all. If you or a family member would like to be anointed, please contact Fr. Tom to make arrangements at frtom@stanneswausau.org or 715.849.3930, ext. 309. If you or a family member is hospitalized and want Fr. Tom or Deacon Erv to visit, let them know, since visits otherwise are not allowed.

COMMUNICATION: We will continue to utilize those means of communication that have proven effective throughout this time of precaution.

EMAIL: A video email update will be sent Thursday, and a second email with a link to our Lord's Day Mass will be sent early Saturday night. If you are not receiving emails from us, send an email to mail@stanneswausau.org and we'll add you to the list.

STANNESWAUSAU.ORG: The parish web site is updated as news warrants and offers links to daily Mass opportunities and other prayer experiences. The web site also features links to the Sunday Mass worship aid and Sunday readings.

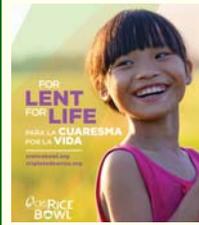
ST ANNE PARISH ON FACEBOOK: This is an easy place to regularly find weekly emails, the link to Sunday Mass, as well as other news and prayer opportunities. Facebook also provides a way of staying connected with family and friends.

ST. ANNE PARISH

700 W. Bridge St.
Wausau WI 54401

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wausau WI
Permit No. 467



It's finally time to collect the Rice Bowls from our Lenten almsgiving. Please find your rice bowl and drop it off at church in marked baskets in the main gathering space, or mail your donation to the parish.

WHAT ABOUT THE COLLECTION?

IF YOU ARE AT MASS: As with so many aspects of our Lord's Day worship during this time of precaution, how we gather the collection will change as well. Because of the risk of spreading germs as the collection basket is passed, there will be clearly marked baskets at all entrances and exits where we ask you to place your donation. These will be monitored and emptied at the end of every Mass.

IF YOU'RE NOT AT MASS: Please continue to share your financial support as you have done in recent months — 1) Mail your contribution or stop at the parish office and if it's closed simply slide the envelope under the office door; 2) Contribute on-line at stanneswausau.org. You can make a one-time contribution or establish an ongoing plan for giving.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We are immensely grateful to the generous parishioners who have been able to continue your financial support of our parish. As with households and businesses, most substantial costs associated with parish life remain and the generosity of our parishioners has, thus far, been of great benefit during this challenging time.

A STIMULATING IDEA: A couple of parishioners have sent in checks apart from their usual financial support indicating they were sharing part of their government stimulus check with the parish. "Enclosed is a check for half of my stimulus check which I had planned to give to St. Anne's," one note read. If you are able to share your stimulus funds with the parish, it is greatly needed and would be greatly appreciated.