



HOLY ROSARY

THE PARISHES OF

SACRED HEART



Saint Joan of Arc -- 30 May 2020

My dear People of Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary Parishes,

As many of you are already aware, Bishop Schlert has directed that as of 1 June, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of the Church, the Patroness of our Diocese, *parishes may resume the celebration of Mass with the presence of the Faithful*. With this permission for Masses to resume, we have been given Guidelines and Protocols for maintaining safe distancing and practices. This means that there are some changes as we “use” the church for Mass, primarily the “hows” when attending Mass during this phase.

Planning and preparing for safety and social distancing as well as putting protocols into place will be challenging. At this time, only Sacred Heart will be opened for Mass with aims to assure that: 1. *Protocols are effective*. 2. *The number of Masses during this phase are/are not sufficient* (it is easier to add Masses in this phase than to take away); 3. *We are able to procure assistance from the Jesuits* (remember their susceptibility and risk level). Holy Rosary will be reopened for Mass once the above points are realized. We all need to continue being patient and understanding as we move through this phase toward the next.

Morning Mass will begin Monday, 1 June, at 8:00 A.M; Sunday Masses will resume Saturday, 6 June, at 5:00 P.M. However, because Communion after Mass will take time and because of the necessity to sanitize between Masses, for now, the 11:00 A.M. Mass will be at 11:30. Once we determine an adequate time needed to sanitize, it may be moved back to 11:15 or 11. Please be understanding for the need for this change. 7:30 & 9:30 A.M. are unchanged.

Below are the parts of the **Plan for Reopening** that will affect you, the Faithful.

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- **ONLY 25% OF A CHURCH’S SEATING CAPACITY MAY/WILL BE USED.**
- During the “Yellow Phase,” the obligation to attend Sunday /Holy Day Mass remains optional.
- Anyone who is ill, has a compromised immune system or is “at risk,” should stay at home.
- All Masses and Adoration will be in the church.
- Holy Water stoops & Baptismal fonts are to remain empty. Some Easter water in individual bottles is still available in baskets in the narthex.
- Physical contact with statues is prohibited.
- Hymnals will be removed from the racks.
- Public worship aids are to be used only once and then discarded by the user in the receptacle in the narthex of the church. Bulletins are to be taken home and not left in the pew or returned to racks.
- Devotional items, prayer or holy are not to be left at shrines, pews or any place in the church.
- **PLEASE:** Use *YOUR* bathroom before coming to Mass. Our restrooms will not be locked during Mass times; however, be aware others before or after you may use the facility. Use them only when **ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**
- **NO** rooms are to be used in the Parish Center for any reason. The PC Entrance may be used for the

handicapped. Also, consider using the parish parking lot entrance for handicapped access.

**PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Face masks are to be worn by all the lay faithful. **NO MASK – NO MASS.**
- Gloves may not be worn for the reception of Holy Communion.
- Sanitizing stations will be located near the church entrances.
- Social distancing is to be practiced within the church building. Pews will be marked that may be used for seating. See chart at the end of this letter.
- Families may sit together.
- The Choir Loft and Cry Rooms are off limits to all except ministering musicians and cantors.
- All formal/informal gatherings are prohibited.
- Ushers are needed to direct the faithful to assure the number of attendees does not exceed the 25% seating capacity. Call the rectory to volunteer.

**SUNDAY MASSES**

- *If the priest-celebrant feels ill, the Masse(es) must be cancelled.*
- No offering is to be taken up. The faithful are to place their offering in the basket(s) located in the aisle at a convenient time other than during Mass.

- There is no exchange of the Sign of Peace.
- Holy Communion will be distributed after Mass. The carpet will be marked to help maintain social distancing coming forward for Communion.
  - Using social distancing, use the center aisle to approach to receive Holy Communion.
  - Use side aisles to exit after receiving Communion.
  - Those receiving on the tongue are to wait until last and approach the priest-celebrant only. I ask that those who usually receive Communion on the tongue to seriously and prayerfully consider receiving in the hand until the pandemic has

- ended. I have diabetes and congestive heart failure, which makes me an “at risk” person.
  - Catechesis will be given to remind the faithful in the proper way to receive Holy Communion.
  - When it is your turn to receive, say **Amen** with your mask on, then pull your mask down, receive the Host, step aside, consume the Host. Replace your mask and then exit the church
- Charity for the health/welfare of fellow worshipers must be the guide when distancing and receiving Holy Communion.

Over these many weeks of being distanced, you, the faithful of Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart have been most faithful and supportive. Although we have not been together to worship, we have been together in Heart – in His Most Sacred Heart and her Immaculate Heart. Your prayerful support, your presence in church in private prayer and devotion, your cards or good wishes and prayers, and your powerful, continued financial support makes being a priest during such times rich and fulfilling – even though it may seem not all that much is happening. As I said in a previous letter, *Let us show our thanks for God’s gifts to us by continuing to do well the good things we are doing.*

Meanwhile, please continue praying for those who have died from this virus or those suffering from it. Pray for their families in their loss or struggle who may be separated because of confinement. Place in prayer before God’s throne all those in the fray, who keep so many safe during the pandemic, putting their lives on the line daily and sacrifice greatly: our medical professionals, EMTs, and any in service-related jobs. Pray for our children who are so eager to be together with their friends; pray for the lonely and those needing a kind word; remember those who have lost their jobs and families that continue to be uprooted. Also keep in pray for those preparing to be Baptized into the faith, received into the Church, and our First Communicants who are ready to come to the Table of the LORD.

All of us at the parishes are so very anxious to see your wonderful, smiling faces! Please – **PLEASE** be patient with me and all of us responsible for bringing us back together as Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart Parishes. During these coming weeks and months as we work to recover, make these words of St. Teresa of Jesus your very own prayer:

*“Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing away:  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things.  
Whoever has God lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices.”*

With a humble, grateful heart for your Faith, I remain

Yours in Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

*Monsignor De Santis*

### PEW/SEATING DIAGRAM

These seating arrangements are allowed.

If you are in a pew alone, and another person or a couple need a seat, in charity, you must allow them to enter the pew, but at all time maintain 6 feet of distancing. The pews are large enough to allow for this  
Pews for seating will be properly marked.

**CENTER  
AISLE**

1 Person	↻ 6 ft. ↻	1 Person	SKIP
	SKIP	1 Person	↻ 6 ft. ↻ 2/3 Persons
	1 Person		SKIP
	SKIP		1 -2 -3 -4 -5...Family