



All Saints | Holy Family | St. Rose of Lima
OUR CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

May 12, 2020

To: Parishioners of All Saints, Holy Family and St. Rose of Lima Parishes
Fr: Fr. Keiter
Re: Re-opening our Churches for Mass

Dear Parishioners:

We are going to try this again. We delayed our original re-opening at the request and urging of our local health departments. At that time, I indicated we were holding off 2 additional weeks. We are now planning to re-open our Churches for public Masses on Monday, May 18th. This is good news but there are several guidelines we must follow. These guidelines are for everyone's safety as we slowly return to some normalcy. These guidelines are from the Archdiocese and based on what has been communicated by the Governor and the Nebraska Department of Health. As you will quickly understand, our normal Church capacity will be cut by at least 2/3. Thus, the suspension of the Sunday obligation by Archbishop Lucas is not being lifted because we will not be able to fit everyone in our Churches on a normal weekend, anywhere in our Archdiocese. **So, as we re-open a new goal is really guiding our efforts: attempt to offer the opportunity for all our Parishioners to receive our Lord in Holy Communion at least once per week.**

In this letter I will set forth the guidelines given us as to who should or should not attend Mass. I will then let you know our new Weekend and Weekday Mass Schedule with the rationale behind it. Lastly, I will list several items so you are aware of these changes when you come to Mass.

The following should be and are encouraged to stay at home:

- a. Elderly;
- b. People with underlying medical conditions;
- c. Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk;
- d. People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions;
- e. People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
- f. People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
- g. People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19;
- h. People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

The new Weekend and Weekday Mass schedule is included as a separate sheet so you can post it somewhere that you can easily refer to it. This schedule will last as long as we have to fulfill the guidelines given us. When possible, we will return to our regular schedule prior to this situation. I have also included the Confession schedule that we will follow as well until further notice on the included Mass schedule.

(continued)

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Holy Family
106 W. 889 Road
Hartington, NE 68739
402.357.2454

St. Rose of Lima
1316 W. 5th Street
Crofton, NE 68730
402.388.4814

The rationale behind the schedule is to maximize our capacity for the Weekend Masses and offer as many opportunities for everyone to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion once each week. So, you will see that our Weekend schedule only uses the 3 largest Churches (St. Boniface, Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Rose of Lima) in our grouping. All Saints will have 2 Masses on the weekend, Holy Family and St. Rose of Lima will each have 3 Masses on the weekend. Then Monday-Friday we will have 3 Masses each day at 7 AM, Noon and 7 PM. Again the point is to offer times when the most people could come (before work, lunch break, or after work). The weekday Masses are set up so each Parish has 1 weekday Mass per day and we simply gave a mix of morning, noon and evening weekday Mass times to each Parish. The big picture is for everyone to figure out the day and time that works best for you or your family, and for our elderly, I want to suggest the 7 AM or Noon weekday Mass. Don't limit yourself to just your Parish times, we have to work together on this so as many people as possible can receive our Lord in Holy Communion once per week. Again, the Sunday obligation is still suspended until further notice.

I am requesting that at all our Masses please only enter through the front entrance. Do not use the side entrances unless necessary for handicap accessibility. If a particular weekend Mass is full, the ushers may have to ask you not to attend that Mass. Please do not be mad at them. We simply have to work together to keep everyone safe. Though we will have pews taped off to give distance, we need your help in respecting social distance in the pews.

Here are several items to be aware of as we begin having Masses again in our Churches:

- We will continue to live stream Mass
- Ushers will hold the outside doors open to reduce as much touching of them as possible and inside doors will be blocked open for our Weekend Masses
- It is necessary and advised to wear a mask
- We will have to clean/wipe down the Church between Masses
- We will have 2 pews taped-off between pews that are being used
- The Breaking Bread Missals will be removed
- No Holy Water in the fonts at the doors
- No choirs (Can have an organist/pianist and a cantor) but they must be socially distanced
- Collection will be done by a basket at the entrance of Church - no ushers taking the collection
- No Servers
- Gifts will be at the Altar - no offertory procession
- No EMHC's
- Single Communion Line down the center
- Communion needs to be received on the hand

Our ability to have public Masses is an exception otherwise no gatherings of more than 10 people are allowed, so no funeral luncheons, no receptions, no donuts and coffee, no other parish activities in which people gather. I will continue holding meetings via conference calls or Zoom conferences.

I am excited that we can begin having Masses together again, but there will be some adjustments and we simply have to work together to make this go as smoothly as possible. I know we can do it.

I am anticipating that we will not have enough room for Parishioners who come to one of our weekend Masses. If we reach capacity at a particular weekend Mass, we will ask people to stay at the Church in their vehicle and we will give you a phone number to call and then you will put in a code which will conference you into that particular Mass and you can listen to it from your car on your phone.. At Communion time, we ask that you turn your headlights on and we will bring Holy Communion to your vehicle. It isn't perfect but we are trying to use every option we have. Again, we will have to work together through all this for the foreseeable future.

Know of my continued prayers for all of you! *Fr. Keiter*