

St. Patrick's & St. Columbanus Church

Date: June 3, 2020

To: Parish Members

From: Fr. Daniel A. Danso

RE: Covid-19 Update

Earlier this week, Bishop Joensen announced that Pottawattamie County parishes are permitted to enter Phase 1, which allows the celebration of daily Mass, on Tuesday, June 9th. They anticipate that we will be able to move into Phase 2, celebration of weekend Masses, on June 20/21, but that will be confirmed as that date draws nearer.

Here is the Mass schedule for June 9-19:

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| 1. June 9, St. Patrick's, 8:30 am | 6. June 16, St. Patrick's, 8:30 am |
| 2. June 10, St. Patrick's, 8:30 am | 7. June 17, St. Patrick's, 8:30 am |
| 3. June 11, St. Columbanus, 8:30 am | 8. June 18, St. Columbanus, 8:30 am |
| 4. June 12, St. Patrick's, 8:30 am | 9. June 19, St. Patrick's, 8:30 am |
| 5. June 13, St. Patrick's, 8:30 am | |

It needs to be said again that Sunday Mass obligation remains suspended, and that vulnerable persons and those who interact with them do well to stay home, even as this poses a continued sacrifice on their part. Remember that during Phase 1 and 2, an occasional presence at Mass, and not daily, makes it possible for more parishioners to attend Mass in safe fashion.

Here are a few things that you all need to be aware of when attending Mass:

1. Masks: Everyone ages 5 and up should wear a mask at all times. If you do not have one of your own, we will have some inside the church door for you to put on. Please throw these away after use. They are not meant to be reused.
2. Hand Sanitizer will be available inside the church doors. Please use when entering and leaving the church.
3. Communion: Attached are instructions on how to receive communion while wearing the mask. Please use one line to approach the altar and keep a six foot distance between families. Bishop Joensen requests that the faithful only receive Holy Communion on the hand and distribution from the chalice is absolutely forbidden.
4. Doors: We will try to have the doors propped open, so too many people aren't touching the handles.
5. Collection/Tithes: We will not be taking up a collection during Mass. There will be boxes inside the door for you to drop your tithes. The lockbox by the hall is also still available if you'd like to drop your donation in there.
6. Pews: In order to keep a six feet social distance, we have taped off some of the pews. This leaves a limited number of pews available. We ask that while in the pews, you keep at least a six foot perimeter in all directions between you and the next family. This may mean that there is only one family per pew.

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7. Ministers: At this time, we will not have Eucharistic Ministers or Altar Servers volunteering at any Masses. Father Danso will be able to distribute communion and handle Mass on his own.
8. Holy Water Fonts: These will remain empty until further notice.
9. Receptions: There are to be no receptions, socials, or 'coffee/doughnuts' after Mass.
10. Confessions: Until we are able to move into Phase 2, Father Danso will hear confessions by appointment only. Please call the parish office to schedule an appointment.

Along with the instructions for receiving communion, we have also enclosed a document from the Diocese titled "Should I be going to Mass?" If you answer yes to any of these questions, we urge you to remain at home.

We will be live-streaming Mass on Sunday, June 7th (The Most Holy Trinity) and on Sunday, June 14th (The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ). Both of these Masses will be on our Facebook page at 9:30 am.

We will share information about Phase 2 as soon as we have more information from the Diocese. Let us all pray that we are back to normal Mass routines very soon.

If you have any questions, please contact us at any time.

Thanks & God Bless!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Danso', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. Daniel A. Danso