



ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH **A MESSAGE TO ALL PARISHIONERS**

Dear Parishioners, I am glad to inform that the Churches in the Diocese of Madison are pleased to begin to allow public Masses. We will begin to have weekend Masses for the public beginning on **Saturday, May 30th** and **Sunday, May 31st, 2020**. Weekday Masses will also be celebrated on a regular basis.

If you are not feeling well or uncomfortable about attending Mass in a group at this time, you may stay home. Your Sunday obligation is temporarily suspended during the pandemic. The Mass will still be broadcasted as you were watching these past weeks. Those who choose to attend Mass must follow the guidelines which are included with this letter. They have been chosen with great care and consideration for the safety and health of our people and you will be expected to observe them.

The Diocese of Madison has stipulated that we may have only 25% of our usual seating capacity attending per Mass. In keeping with this and following proper social distancing we must limit the number of people allowed to attend each Mass. Seating will be limited to keep everyone a safe distance of 6' apart. Families of the same household may sit together in a single pew. The use of face mask is strongly recommended. Please carefully read the enclosed Guidelines for Attending Mass. It is our hope that with your cooperation we may successfully move forward to safely provide worship once again in our Church. I also ask all the parishioners to be patient with all these restrictions since it is new for all of us.

Fr. Alex Carmel

GUIDELINES FOR THE RESUMPTION OF MASS AT ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH

- ❖ The obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues to be suspended until further notice.
- ❖ Anyone who is ill or at risk – all those defined as more vulnerable – are encouraged to stay at home, particularly those who are over 65 years of age or who may be immunocompromised.
- ❖ Confessions will be heard by appointment at this time.

SIGNING UP TO ATTEND MASS:

- ❖ Attendance at each Mass is limited to no more than 25% of our Church's occupancy with 6' distance.
- ❖ Attendance may not exceed 48.
- ❖ Parishioners are asked to sign up to attend Mass by sending an e-mail or call the office and you will be getting a confirmation from the office. Please pass on this message to others, especially to those who don't have access to internet and help them to sign up.
- ❖ We will try to offer everyone an opportunity to attend Mass, but certain times if the number becomes more than you will be asked to attend the following week. If you make a reservation and do not attend that Mass you will be moved to the bottom of the list for a future reservation.

- ❖ You are asked to sign up no later than Wednesday evening. If no one answers your phone call, leave a message with your name, number and the number of seats needed for your household.
- ❖ When you come to Church, enter at the main front door only. At SMM enter through parking lot door only.
- ❖ Please wait at the door and the Usher will check the reservation list and will guide you to the reserved seats. They will also direct people pew by pew dismissal at the end of Mass. All Ushers will wear face masks and gloves.
- ❖ There will be no choir or congregational singing at Mass. Instrumental will be played.
- ❖ The Ushers will not come around for offertory donations/envelopes. You are asked to drop them at the collection box or basket at the entry way or at the back of the Church.

HOLY COMMUNION:

- ❖ Father will come around distributing Holy Communion and you are all asked to stay in your places. There will be no Eucharistic Ministers and Servers at this time. We encourage you to receive Holy Communion on hand but if anyone wants to receive on tongue, you will be given at the end.
- ❖ While not mandatory, we highly recommend the use of cloth face masks to avoid spreading respiratory droplets. Wearing a face covering can protect others around you.
- ❖ All Missalettes, Hymnals, Pham plates will be removed from the pews and at the Church.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer will be available for everyone in the Church.
- ❖ Parents are asked to accompany the kids to restrooms and after usage, please disinfect by spraying and cleaning the used surfaces.
- ❖ The Church will be cleaned and disinfected after each Mass.
- ❖ There will be no bulletins to be distributed in the Church, except online. They will be posted in our parish Website, and Facebook.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We are in need of volunteers to clean, disinfect the Church, Pews and the Doors after every Mass. Ushers alone cannot do it all by themselves. So kindly step forward to help.

These rules will remain in effect until further notice with no timeline determined at this time.

CONCLUSION:

Let us all keep praying that this situation may soon pass away and be back to normal. I am aware that there will be confusion and misunderstandings while following all these guidelines and restrictions, but we need to go further challenging the present situation as it is very new for everyone. I request all the parishioners to cooperate and together we shall win this pandemic.
God Bless you all and keep you safe.

Fr. Alex Carmel