

ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

A PARISH OF THE HOLY SAINTS AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID19, DO NOT ENTER THE CHURCH - NO EXCEPTIONS.

RULE FOR PUBLIC MASS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

REGULA MISSAE PUBLICAE IN TEMPORE UNIVERSALIS CONTAGII

- 1. Please sign up** - Pay attention to bulletins and electronic communications. Sign-ups will be available for all weekend Masses either electronically or by calling the parish office. You must sign up to help us keep the gathering at a safe number (No more than 60 in the church proper!)
- 2. Consider wearing a mask** - While masks may not be worn when going up to receive Holy Communion, they are encouraged at all other times. At certain times, ministers are obliged to wear masks.
- 3. Maintain social distancing of 6 feet or more between households at all times** - Please enter the church and proceed to a seat, mindful of keeping a safe distance between your family and other families. Allow the ushers to assist you, especially during seating, the Communion Procession, and when departing the church. Do not gather for socializing inside any parish buildings.
- 4. Use hand sanitizer** - Please use the hand sanitizer available at the church doors when entering and leaving the church.
- 5. Do not sing** - Congregational singing is prohibited; it may expel aerosol versions of the virus.
- 6. Receive Holy Communion on the hand** - Reception on the hand is a traditional and respected mode of receiving the Most Blessed Sacrament since at least the Fourth Century; reception on the hand is required at this time. No one is ever obliged, but especially in this time of pandemic, to receive Holy Communion.
- 7. When Mass is concluded, go outside promptly** - Parishioners may not visit or socialize inside any parish buildings. Weather permitting, the priest will greet parishioners outside, in a socially distant manner.

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The Rectory
May 31, 2020
The Solemnity of Pentecost
in tempore universalis contagii

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary Help of Christians,

As I write this, it looks like the suspension of public Mass has been reversed, and we are now able to gather for the celebration of the Eucharist. There is a certain urgency, as those of you who have read my column in this weekend's bulletin already know. Since I will be taking on additional responsibilities on June 30, I feel an obligation to try to fulfill as many sacramental needs as I can in the Parish of St. Mary Help of Christians.

Hence, after consultation with the Pastoral Council, I will be in communication with those parents who have children prepared for First Holy Communion, in order to determine what the safest way is for those children to enjoy that sacrament sooner rather than later. Likewise, I will be in consultation with the Chancery and then reach out to those parents who have children prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Funerals that take place in this time need to be handled according to very strict protocols that necessitate private celebrations. Weddings, similarly, must be handled with a certain delicacy because they tend to bring otherwise separate populations together. Because of all these sacramental celebrations, there may be many celebrations of Holy Mass on weekdays that are closed to the general public. Nevertheless, it is my hope and intention to offer public Masses, in some form, every weekend it is allowed.

To that end, I have a request of all of you. Your generosity throughout this pandemic, routinely mailing in donations, has been much appreciated, but there are some things, it seems, money cannot buy! **Specifically, in order to keep the strict protocols that keep us all safe, the parish is in need of Clorox wipes or equivalent products that are capable of killing human coronavirus.** Wipes are the easiest for volunteer cleaning crews to utilize, and so wipes are preferred. Unfortunately, places where we might order these are unable to stock them, and when they appear on the shelves in shops, they are quickly purchased and often rationed at the rate of only one or two per customer. Hence, I am asking, if you can spare a canister of wipes from your own supplies or acquire one during a trip to the store, please consider donating it to the parish. That will allow us to continue operating safely, even during this pandemic.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Ceane



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MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE DAYS FOLLOWING PENTECOST:

June 1 – No public Mass

June 2 – 6:00 PM

June 3 – 8:00 AM

June 4 – 8:00 AM

June 5 – No public Mass

June 6 – 5:00 PM

**June 7 – 8:00 AM
10:00 AM**

**PLEASE NOTE THE
FOLLOWING IN REGARD TO
MASSES:**

- Rules for public Mass during a pandemic must be observed.
- No more than sixty parishioners may participate in any one of these Masses.
- **FOR WEEKEND MASSES ONLY** you must sign up either online at smhoc.org by calling the parish office before Noon Friday, June 5. You **MUST** speak to a person and receive confirmation that you have signed up. You may **NOT** simply leave a message.