

ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

A PARISH OF THE HOLY SAINTS AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



August 30, 2020
The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
in tempore universalis contagii

Dear Parishioners,

As I have striven to acquaint myself with two new parishes, each with a parochial school, as well as maintain measures to check the spread of COVID19, I have also been revising each parish's COVID19 plans, striving for greater uniformity of practice, as well as conformity with the measures in the other two parishes of the Holy Saints ACC. Here is what I can say, going forward, with regard to each parish I serve as pastor:

For the months of September and October, we will not use servers at any Masses. In general, sanctuaries are all arranged to allow the priest to function without the assistance of servers, and it is always good to minimize the number of people in the sanctuary.

For the month of September, with only a few exceptions, such as outdoor Masses which gather larger congregations, we will not use extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Again, in general, priests can manage distribution, especially to the smaller numbers allowed in churches at present.

We will utilize ushers, lectors, sacristans, and music ministers at weekend Masses, as they are available in the various parishes. Note well: though we will use music ministers, congregational singing remains prohibited.

Links to online sign-ups will be posted on the various parish websites for all weekend Masses; those who wish to attend Mass must sign up in advance. This represents a change due to the happy problem of increasing participation, especially in the smaller parish churches.

Greater restrictions on seating will be put in place in both the church of St. Wendelin and the church of the Holy Cross. Again, greater participation means that more care is needed to maintain six feet between households – it is a happy problem :)

School Masses (Wednesday 7:45 at St. Wendelin; Thursday 8:00 at St. Mary Help of Christians; Friday 8:30 at Holy Cross) will be closed to the general public for the month of September, in order to help the schools maintain their COVID19 protocols. We hope these Masses will be webcast in some manner, however.

Tuesday, 6 PM Masses at St. Mary Help of Christians, starting on an as yet undetermined date in September, will be closed to the general public in order to allow First Communicants and their guests to safely attend in small numbers.

A letter will go out, guiding families of First Communicants at St. Mary Help of Christians to pick opportunities to make their First Holy Communion at Tuesday Evening Masses in small numbers.

I pray that the threat of the COVID19 virus is swiftly ameliorated.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Crane