

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all doing well in this time unlike any other.

The Bishops of Illinois are working on a plan for the gradual reopening of our churches.

We have received the attached letter and Executive Summary from Bishop Braxton regarding church reopening. Please take a little time to read them. In his letter, Bishop Braxton does address concerns that we may have going forward.

In addition to the attached letter and Executive Summary, we have also received, from the diocese, detailed directions for conducting Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and private prayer times.

These plans limit us to having a maximum of ten participants within the church at one time. We will have to wear face masks and practice social distancing of six feet. Areas used in church will have to be cleaned after each service. A greeter will have to be present to check that participants use hand sanitizer, wear a face mask, and do not report feeling ill.

My impression is that if we, as a parish, can provide some of these opportunities to worship in church, such as Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and private prayer times, we will be better prepared to celebrate public Masses in church in the future.

As you will see in the Executive Summary attachment, a key component is to have volunteers to greet those entering church and to aid in the cleaning of church.

If you might be able and willing to help in these areas, please contact either Joan Powell or myself by return email.

We still do not have permission to celebrate public Masses nor do we have detailed requirements or planning for them at this time. These will be forthcoming from the diocese in the future. I will continue to say private daily Masses and live-stream Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses.

Please contact me with your questions and comments.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support of each other in these challenging times. May God bless you all!

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