



UPDATE ON RETURNING TO MASS

Dear Parishioners,

It certainly doesn't need to be said that the last two months have been extremely trying for one and all. Our patience has been tested, our endurance has been taxed, and our desire to worship and receive our Lord Jesus in Holy Communion has been suspended. On June 3rd, however, that will change.

This change, though, will bring with it other changes, a new temporary normal if you will. As we move forward into this gradual return to Mass, I am asking everyone to be considerate and respectful toward all. Please realize that not everyone will have the same attitude toward the Corona virus and the difficulties it has caused. Some will not have been touched by it at all, and some may be suffering from the loss of loved ones directly or indirectly caused by Covid-19. Wherever you fall on the spectrum, please be mindful of your neighbor and show everyone the respect and love they deserve during this continued difficult time.

Some may disagree with the guidelines that the bishop is asking us to follow, such as wearing a mask while in the church, and maintaining the appropriate 6' social distancing measures. Be that as it may, it is still a requirement we must meet if we desire to transition back to Mass.

Some may think we are throwing caution to the wind and opening up too soon. To them I would say that the bishop hears and understands your concerns, but he also hears

and understands the desire of those who have been away from the sacraments for far too long and yearn to be before the altar again worshipping our Lord. If you disagree with the opening of the churches, your views are respected, and in order to remain safe, it is recommended that you stay home and continue watching Mass online or on the television. Remember that for the immediate future Bishop Deeley continues to suspend the obligation to attend Mass in person. You would never be required to put yourself in danger or to act in a way that causes you fear for your health and safety.

In my opinion, we are tremendously blessed to have the opportunity to slowly transition back to a normal Mass schedule. It may still take a while before we see what we knew as “normal,” but this is a positive step in that direction.

Beginning tomorrow, I will send a few daily emails that will spell out the expectations for those who desire to attend Mass. Don't forget to check your email daily. Please be mindful and respectful of these guidelines. These are guidelines that the bishop is requiring of all pastors. They are non-negotiable. Should you have difficulties with any of them, or if anything seems confusing to you, please don't hesitate to call me at the rectory: 255-3731.

I anticipate a smooth transition with occasional hiccups and modifications. Please be flexible, loving, and kind as we move forward. May God continue to bless us as we step beyond the 14th Station.

God bless you, and thank you for your prayers,
Fr. Philip

If anyone misses an email update, please be sure to visit our parish website at www.stpeterthefisherman.me. These updates will be published on the website as well.
