



CHURCH OF ST. PETER  
*Roman Catholic Community*

*Church of St. Peter  
2600 N. Margaret St.  
North St. Paul, MN 55109  
651-777-8304*



## CHURCH OF ST. PETER

2600 MARGARET STREET NORTH, NORTH ST. PAUL, MN 55109 | 651-777-8304

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." - Mt 28:18b-19

Dear Parishioners,

We are grateful for Archbishop Hebda and his brother Bishop's decision to allow us to resume public Masses. Their response, based on faith and reason, gives us the opportunity to worship the living God while continuing to follow the social distancing and sanitation guidelines we have in place. We at Church of St. Peter have decided to move forward and open the church for public Masses starting **May the 26<sup>th</sup>**. Be mindful of the following important points.

- **No one will be obliged to attend Mass**
- **The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation will continue to be suspended**
- **We will follow the strict protocols for sanitation and social distancing**
- **We will limit attendance to 1/3 of the capacity of the Church**
- **If you would like to attend Mass, please go to the website and register for a Mass or call Connie at the parish office.**
- **Our first consideration must continue to be for the spiritual and physical health of our parishioners and those whom they encounter, especially the most vulnerable: the elderly and those with chronic illnesses.**  
**All COVID-19 positive persons, those who are symptomatic, and those living with them, must stay home.**

I encourage you to take time to read and understand this important letter. Please continue to watch your email and visit our [website](#) for updates on Mass times, sign ups and instructions.

## **From the Catholic Bishops of Minnesota**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Bishops of Minnesota, along with many people of faith, were disappointed in Governor Walz's May 13 announcement that he would end the Stay-at-Home order to allow more commerce but prohibit religious gatherings of more than ten people. We have attempted to work collaboratively with the Walz Administration up to this time, seeking the guidance of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Public Health to help us strengthen our specific safety protocols based on the statewide plan. Along with some Lutheran colleagues, we submitted a plan to the Governor on May 8 that detailed the sanitation measures we would take and proposed a cap on occupancy limited to 33 percent of building capacity. Our proposed protocols are based on the work undertaken by a group of national medical experts and theologians, the Thomistic Institute, and they are consistent with the practices that have already been put in place in many dioceses throughout the United States. We continue our willingness to make any necessary adjustments to our safety protocols upon review.

### **The Life of Faith is Essential**

Given our willingness to coordinate with the Governor, we are especially disappointed that his most recent order (20-56) does not address both the vital importance that faith plays in the lives of Americans, especially in this time of pandemic, and the fundamental religious freedom possessed by houses of worship that allows our country to thrive. The Governor's remarks today further underscored a failure to appreciate the role of our Church and other faith groups in serving the community. The human cost to this pandemic has been extraordinary, not just in terms of lives lost to the virus but the rapidly growing problems of job loss, depression, crime and violence, and substance abuse. As Pope Francis has said, the church must be a field hospital, ministering to all, but especially the poor and vulnerable. He has cautioned that overly drastic measures that limit church life will have a disproportionate impact on "the little ones" and those who have no one to rely on.



The bishops of Minnesota are united in our conviction that we can safely resume public Masses in accordance with both our religious duties and with accepted public health and safety standards. We can worship in a way that reflects both the love of God and the love of our neighbors (cf. Mark 12:30-31). Therefore, we are giving our parishes permission for the resumption of the public celebration of Mass on Tuesday, May 26, which will give us time to be ready for the celebration of Pentecost on May 31. We can worship in a way that reflects both the love of God and the love of our neighbors (cf. Mark 12:30-31). Therefore, we are giving our parishes permission for the resumption of the public celebration of Mass on Tuesday, May 26, which will give us time to

Parishes will be required to follow the strict protocols we have published for sanitation and social distancing and will have to limit attendance to one-third of the seating capacity of the church. No one will be obliged to attend, as the bishops of Minnesota will continue to dispense from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

## **Responsible Worship in Service of the Common Good**

We share the Governor's concern about the importance of taking all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We have charged our parishes with the task of preparing for a limited return to public Mass, but we are not requiring them to begin public Mass on May 26.

Each parish community needs to be comfortable that it can meet the standards set forth in extensive and stringent diocesan protocols. We already know that many will be unable to do that immediately because of the configuration of their churches or because of a shortage of staff or supplies. They need a plan for how they would limit admittance to one third of the seating capacity of their church, and how they will seat those who arrive. We also recognize that some parishes may choose, for now, to adhere to the existing ten-person limit. We trust local leadership will determine when they are able to follow all the directives and open, and we stand ready to assist them when necessary

We also know that parishes may have to adjust to changing circumstances, recognizing that we do not know how the pandemic will affect us in the weeks and months ahead. A parish that begins public Mass on Pentecost, for example, may have to impose further restrictions later in the year, in the event of an outbreak in the local community.

We have made it clear that the obligation of a Catholic to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended and we have uniformly encouraged those most at risk to stay home. Not surprisingly, dioceses in other states that have already reopened their churches for public Masses report that the number of those attending is significantly reduced. We ask our parishes to continue to provide ministry by live streaming even when public Masses resume. We find it reasonable, moreover, that parishes would continue to look for opportunities for outdoor celebrations.

## **Rights and Responsibilities**

In moving forward with public worship in this limited manner, we wish to provide more explanation for our decision. First, the six dioceses of Minnesota voluntarily suspended parish activities, Catholic schools, and the public celebration of Mass, and did so before any executive orders were put in place. We have followed public health guidance and Governor Walz's leadership so that we, as a state, could 1) flatten the curve, 2) allow time for the necessary health care infrastructure to be created to handle a surge of patients and avoid unnecessary deaths, and 3) allow a testing regime to be put in place to limit spread of COVID-19. We have done so because we care for our neighbors and it is important for us to be in solidarity with our vulnerable sisters and brothers. We have also done so out of respect for rightful authority— another biblical principle (cf. Romans 13).

Second, we have attempted to engage in dialogue with the Administration. We have twice sent the Governor letters asking for a dialogue, most recently last Saturday. Though public health and public safety officials have listened to our concerns and have created opportunities for input and conversation, we have not received a concrete timeline and roadmap for resuming public worship that includes reasonable guidance on congregational size.

Third, we believe we have been leading by example. Our people and institutions have enthusiastically cooperated with the public health guidance and have been part of the solution at every turn: providing relief to struggling families, finding creative ways to minister to a suffering people, serving on the front lines of the health care crisis, and leaping forward in technology to meet the demand for spiritual comfort created by this pandemic

Our decision to suspend the public celebration of Mass was painful. We made that decision not because we were compelled to do so, but because we judged that the circumstances required it. We believe that those circumstances have changed, as confirmed by the Governor's decision to end the Stay-at-Home order and allow more commerce. It is now permissible for an unspecified number of people to go to shopping malls and enter stores, so inside at any one time, and the number of goods that are being handled and distributed in one store by many people—stock staff, customers, cashiers—is astounding. Workers are present for many hours per day, often in close proximity. There is no state mandate that customers wear masks in those malls or stores, wash their hands consistently, or follow any specific cleaning protocol. In these circumstances, and given the well-researched protocols that we have proposed (and that are being followed successfully elsewhere in our nation) how can reason require us any longer to keep our faithful from the Eucharist?

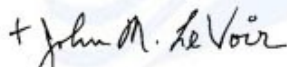
We are blessed to live in a nation that guarantees the free exercise of religion. This right can only be abridged for a compelling governmental interest, and only in a way that is narrowly tailored to be the least restrictive means of achieving the desired end. That is why a large majority of states now allow in-person religious services, including many states that had previously suspended in-person religious services. We think that the executive order issued last Wednesday fails this test. An order that sweeps so broadly that it prohibits, for example, a gathering of 11 people in a Cathedral with a seating capacity of several thousand defies reason. Therefore, we have chosen to move forward in the absence of any specific timeline laid out by Governor Walz and his Administration. We cannot allow an indefinite suspension of the public celebration of the Mass.

In conclusion, as local leadership makes these important decisions about when to safely re-open, we ask them to be in communication with diocesan leadership about their plans. The bishops of Minnesota are grateful that we have such excellent leadership in our parishes and we know that as we work together, we can provide for the essential sacramental life of our faithful, fulfill our duty to worship God, and do so in a way that also protects the common good of our state (cf. Matthew 6:25-34).

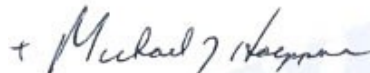
We remain yours in Christ Jesus the Lord,



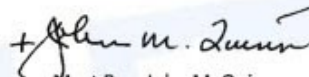
Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda  
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul  
and Minneapolis



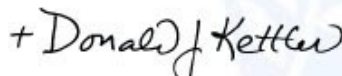
Most Rev. John M. LeVoir  
Bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm



Most Rev. Michael J. Hoeppner  
Bishop of the Diocese of Crookston



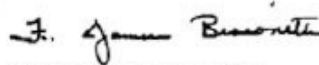
Most Rev. John M. Quinn  
Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Most Rev. Donald J. Kettler  
Bishop of the Diocese of St. Cloud



Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St.  
Paul and Minneapolis



Very Rev. James Bissonette  
Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of  
Duluth



## Prayer for the Family

*Lord God, from You every family in heaven  
and on earth takes its name.*

*Father, You are Love and Life. Through Your  
Son,*

*Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through  
the Holy Spirit,*

*fountain of divine charity, grant that every  
family on earth may*

*become for each successive generation a  
true shrine of life and love.*

*Grant that Your grace may guide the  
thoughts and actions of  
husbands and wives for the good of their  
families and of all the families in the world.  
Grant that the young may find in the family  
solid support for*

*their human dignity and for their growth in  
truth and love.*

*Grant that love, strengthened by the grace  
of the sacrament of  
marriage, may prove mightier than all the  
weakness and trials*

*through which our families sometimes pass.*

*Through the intercession of the Holy Family  
of Nazareth, grant*

*that the Church may fruitfully carry out her  
worldwide mission*

*in the family and through the family.*

*Through Christ our Lord,  
who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
Amen.*

**Saint John Paul II**

Dear parishioners and visitors,

As you come back to the church to worship  
the living God in the sacraments, you may  
notice a new icon above the fireplace in the  
foyer. This beautiful icon of the Holy Family

is made by master iconographer Nick  
Markell. We invite everyone to contemplate  
the beauty of the icon while praying the  
following prayer for the Family written by  
Saint John Paul II.

We will publish a detailed explanation by  
Mr. Markell in the next bulletin.

A sincere thank you to the anonymous  
parishioner who donated the beautiful icon.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be **closed** on Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Due to the Corona virus and the State of Minnesota shelter in place, the parish office is not open to the public.

Connie will be in the **office Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 2:00 pm**. If you are in need of assistance or would like to drop off your envelope, please let her know and she will come to the door.

If you should have a **pastoral emergency after hours, please call the emergency number on the message**.

## MEMORIAL DAY MASS UPDATE

Please be aware that there will **not be a Memorial Day Mass** at the cemetery this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governors restrictions.

Also you should be aware there **will not be a Military Guard procession or rifle salute**.

We are so grateful to all of our veterans for their duty to protect our freedom and we will be praying for them each and every day this week.

**While we are unable to celebrate public Mass we will not forget those men and women who fought for us.** The Veteran's will be posting flags at each veterans grave for Memorial Day. If you put your own flag up, it must be removed within 7 days,  
Thank you!

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

PROMISE TO **PROTECT** - PLEDGE TO **HEAL**

A SAFE PLACE TO COME FORWARD

ARCHDIOCESE VICTIM ASSISTANCE: 651-291-4475

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Christian Hennes who was buried this week.



## Walking with Christ The Ascension of the Lord

**"I am praying for them..." JOHN 17: 9**



Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those

that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

How will you make time for prayer this week?

## INFORMATION ON MASS & CONFESSION

### MASS TIMES

- **Wednesday, May 27:** 8:00 am, 5:00 pm
- **Thursday, May 28:** 8:00 am, 5:00 pm
- **Friday, May 29:** 8:00 am
- **Saturday, May 30:** 8:00 am
- **Saturday, May 30** Vigil of Pentecost  
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm
- **Sunday, May 31,** 8:00 am, **11:00 am Live Streamed,** 7:00 pm

**CONFESSION** for the week of May 26-30

There will **NOT** be time for private prayer and adoration in the main church. There will **ONLY** be confessions during the times listed below.

- **Thursday 2:00 - 4:00 pm**
- **Saturday 10:30 am to 1:30 pm**

Please sign up for a Mass at [www.churchofstpetermsp.org](http://www.churchofstpetermsp.org). Please sign up for emails by calling the parish office Please continue to join us for the **live streaming Mass this Sunday at 10:30**. You will find the information on the website or on Facebook how to connect to the Mass.

**There is no Mass on Monday,  
May 25, 2020**



## MASS INTENTIONS

Week of May 24 - May 31, 2020

Sunday: 8:00 AM †Lawrence Weiss  
 10:30 AM Church of St. Peter Parish  
 6:00 PM †Judith Lund  
 Monday: 8:00 AM †Mary Capistrant  
 Tuesday: 8:00 AM †James Siepmann  
 Wednesday: 8:00 AM †Tom Lyons  
 6:00 PM Victims of Abuse  
 Thursday: 8:00 AM †Mick Stroeing  
 Friday: 8:00 AM †Duane Anderson  
 9:30 AM †Frances Rybak  
 Saturday: 8:00 AM †Albert & Alvina Bever  
 4:00 PM †Bob Pogue, Jr.  
 Sunday: 8:00 AM †Chris Allickson  
 10:30 AM Church of St. Peter Parish  
 6:00 PM †Don & Mark Capuzzi

**These intentions are being honored  
 by the priests at their daily Mass**

### Readings for the week of May 24, 2020

Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/  
 Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20  
 Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/  
 Jn 16:29-33  
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/  
 Jn 17:1-11a  
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-  
 36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19  
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-  
 10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26  
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab  
 [19a]/Jn 21:15-19  
 Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/  
 Jn 21:20-25  
 Next Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or  
 Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/  
 Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/  
 Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39.  
 Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-  
 13, 14-15/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/  
 Dn 3:52, 53, 55, 56 [52b] or Ps 19:8, 9, 10,  
 11/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
 [1]/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29,  
 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39. Day:  
 Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf.  
 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please call the parish office with any prayer requests that you may have for those who are sick. Please know that you must have permission from the person that you are requesting prayers for. **We are publishing these on our website. Please go to the website and pray for those that are ill.**

## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

As of May 17 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020

Collected for Week: Envelopes & Plate	\$10,392.
Collected for Week: Electronic Giving	\$12,636.
<b>Total Amount Collected for Week</b>	<b>\$23,027.</b>
Amount Budgeted for Week	\$24,262.
Collected to Date: Stocks & Special Gifts	\$1,122,846.
Budgeted to Date: Stocks & Special Gifts	\$1,078,847.
<b>Percentage Above (or Below) Budget</b>	<b>4.08%</b>
Amount Above (or Below) Budget	\$43,971.

### Current Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Fund balance after the HVAC project is

**\$66,753.49**

**Donations Received as of May 17, 2020:**

**Thank you for Supporting St. Peter Parish!**

Please consider donating online to help us continue our ministries. To donate online, click "Donate Now" on our parish website or go to [giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stpetersnsp.org](http://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stpetersnsp.org) or try our new text to give option, text "Give" to 651-240-6260.

## EMAIL OR TEXT SCAM AFFECTING PARISHES

**With the coronavirus there are new attempts!**

**The Archdiocese has been notified that several local parishes have been affected by an email and text scam. Using Priest, Principal or a staff members name the scammer will create a new email address or text, contact the staff members, parishioners, or volunteers via email or text and then ask for a favor, money or gift cards.**

**PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THESE EMAILS.**

If you receive such a fraudulent email or text from the parish or any staff member, please contact Jeff Peterson, [jpeterson@stpetersnsp.org](mailto:jpeterson@stpetersnsp.org) and notify the North St. Paul Police. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE EMAIL OR TEXT.** In the case of any email or text asking for funds or appearing to be suspicious, **IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO CONTACT THE PERSON DIRECTLY BY PHONE OR IN PERSON TO MAKE SURE IT IS AUTHENTIC.**