

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parish of Sacred Heart, are committed to enriching the Spirituality of the parish family, the Christian community, and all brothers and sisters created in God's divine image and likeness. We are called by the Holy Spirit, under the leadership of our Bishop and Pastor, to assist others through the development and promotion of various ministries. We pray for Divine guidance that we may serve others with truth, courage, forethought and compassion.

Parish Council 1998

BAPTISM: Call the office three months prior to anticipated birth to schedule a preparation class after which a Baptism date can be scheduled.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION: Please contact Sarah McIntyre, Coordinator of Religious Education for more information.

MARRIAGE: Contact the office six months prior to anticipated wedding date. Pre-Cana is required for all engaged couples and should be attended at least three months before the wedding.

ANointing OF THE SICK & MINISTRY OF CARE: If you or someone you know is seriously ill, hospital or home bound, and would like the Anointing of the Sick, please call the Church office to make arrangements to have a priest come and visit. The Eucharist can also be brought to homebound parishioners by an Extraordinary Minister.

WE WELCOME YOU AND INVITE YOU

to fill out a form to become a member of our special Little Church with the Big Heart. The green census forms are located in the back of the Church. You may put the completed form in the collection basket, mail it to the office, or bring it in during office hours. We welcome you to our family.

June 7, 2020 Sacred Heart Of Jesus Catholic Church

Established 1966

4736 Lyba Street
Shreveport, La 71109

Office/Rectory: 318-635-2121 **Fax:** 318-635-5226

Email: sacredheart@sacredheartshreveport.org

Gabriel Hall/Activity Building: 318-635-5446

St. Vincent de Paul Society Pantry: 318-635-2202

Rev. Michael Thang'wa, FMH — Pastor (318-635-2121)

St. Mary's (318-687-5121) - thangwamike@gmail.com

Rev. Rigoberto B. Cortés — Parochial Vicar

St. Mary's (318-687-5121)

Deacon Clary Nash — Community Coord. (318-635-2121)

deaconnash@sacredheartshreveport.org

Sarah McIntyre — Coordinator of Religious Education

(318-635-5446) smcintyre@sacredheartshreveport.org

Darlene Cain — RCIA Coordinator

rcia@sacredheartshreveport.org

Cathy Flynn — Bookkeeper—

cflynn@sacredheartshreveport.org

Libby Campbell — Secretary/Bulletin Editor

libbyac@sacredheartshreveport.org

www.sacredheartshreveport.org (live web cast)

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE MASSES ARE AS FOLLOWS

Saturday — 4 p.m.

Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

WEEK DAY MASSES

Wednesday & Thursday — 9:30 a.m. in Church
Anointing of the Sick is the First Wednesday of Each Month

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASSES

12:05 p.m. Day of the Holy Day

Confessions

By Appointment Only

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday — 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Pre K 3 through High School — Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

September — May

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

For those interested in exploring the Catholic Faith

Sunday at 9:00 a.m. September — May

BULLETIN NOTICE DEADLINE

—MONDAY 1:00 PM for the following Sunday's bulletin—

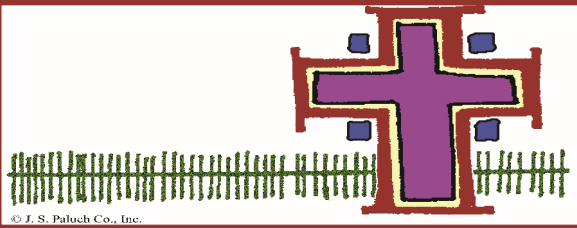
Please submit your request to libbyac@sacredheartshreveport.org, drop it off at the church office or drop your written message in the Sunday collection.

1-888-411-1333

Free. Confidential. 24 Hours

SUICIDE HOTLINE — 1-877-994-2275

— . . . —
If you are on vacation or just out of town on business and would like to find a mass near you. Go to www.MassTimes.org or call 734-794-2100.



The Most Holy Trinity

June 7, 2020

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

— John 3:16a

Masses for the Week

06/06 SAT
06/07 SUN
06/07 SUN
06/07 SUN

4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

PARISHIONERS & ALL VICTIMS OF COVID-19
† RICHARD A. SMITH
† KARLA SEPULVADO & DOUG LEONE
† ANN BODDIE

by: Tim & Elaine Smith
by: The Family
by: Helen Wilson

06/10 WED
06/11 THU

9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.

† CARLA RAE EBARB
† MARY LANGLAIS & BUCK PROCELL

by: (Mom) Mary Powell
by: Mary Powell

06/13 SAT
06/14 SUN
06/14 SUN
06/14 SUN

4:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

PARISHIONERS & ALL VICTIMS OF COVID-19
† EUNICE & CHRIS EBARB
† GRACE LACOUR
† RITA FRUGÉ

by: The Family
by: Patricia LaCour
by: Marian Auxiliary

Fr. Michael will be saying the above listed Mass Intentions at their respective mass times listed.

SAT. JUN 6TH
4:00 P.M.

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

SUN. JUN 7TH
10:00 A.M.

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**



SAT. JUN 13TH
4:00 P.M.

**MINISTERS
ASSIGNED AT A
LATER DATE**

SUN. JUN 14TH
10:00 P.M.

**MINISTERS
ASSIGNED AT A
LATER DATE**

NO VISITS TO SICK & SHUT- IN OR NURSING HOMES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MASS TIMES FOR SACRED HEART

SATURDAYS—4:00 P.M.

SUNDAYS—10:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS—9:30 A.M.
IN THE CHURCH

CONFESSIONS

BY APPOINTMENT

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELAINE SMITH

It is with sadness and happiness that we wish Elaine a wonderful retirement. We of course are sad to see her step down from her job here at the Rectory, but happy for her to be enjoying a wonderful retirement with hubby Tim. If you get a chance please wish her well and let her know how much she was appreciated. As she says, she is not leaving Sacred Heart, she will still be an active member of this Parish as she has always been. So good luck and best wishes to our sweet Elaine.

Also, please welcome Cathy Flynn, to our staff family. She is replacing Elaine and we are very happy to have her. Cathy is a long time member of Sacred Heart, and has been a dedicated worker, helping out where ever she can.

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul....we want to help!
We can be reached Monday - Friday between the hours of 9 am to 11 am & between 1 pm to 3 pm at 318-865-7807.

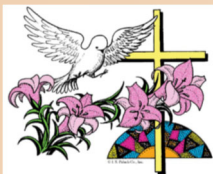
TO ALL PARISHIONERS: Since we are not allowed to have paper in the Church, we will not be receiving a paper copy of the bulletin. There will be a weekly bulletin on the website www.sacredheartshreveport.org) to read it on-line.
Thank you!

GRACE AND ETERNAL LIFE

Moses is a man after our own hearts, for haven't we all dealt with more than our share of stiff-necked people? Indeed, haven't we all gotten a little stiff-necked ourselves at times? Complaining . . . impatient . . . quick to anger. How lucky for Moses—how lucky for all of us—that God is exactly the opposite! And we don't even have to guess about it. The Lord tells us so directly. Accordingly, Moses does what we all need to do. Even with the tablets in hand, he bows down and asks for God's forgiveness and grace.

Encouraging us to live together in peace—and in God's favor—the Apostle Paul knows all about this grace, joyfully invoking Christ's grace on us along with God's love and the Holy Spirit's. "Rejoice," he says. And when it comes to rejoicing, John offers us the gladdest words of all: the assurance of eternal life through Jesus.

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IN SYMPATHY, please pray for **Mary Ann Parent Hall**, who died in Christ on May 18, 2020, peacefully. Mary was born May 16, 1935 in Gonzales, LA. She lived there until she met the love of her life Billy J. Hall. They were blessed with 63 years of marriage. Mary & Billy had 5 children, Mona Proctor, Becky (Sam) Harper, Ricky Hall, Colett (Terry) Fielder, and Luther (Bridget) Hall. They have 13 grandchildren. She was a loving Pre-school teacher where all her students called her Granny. She was a very active member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and loved carrying for her family, friends and any one in need. If you wish to remember Mary, the family is asking to please make donations to Sacred Heart. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

SAINT BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS (1844-1879) April 16

With Immaculate Mary's "Ave Maria" for its refrain, Andy Williams' "Village of Saint Bernadette" peaked at #7 on *Billboard's Top 40* at Christmas 1959, airing on radio stations all over America. Imagine! April 16 marks the feast of Bernardette Soubirous, the teenager who, combing a refuse heap for firewood, saw a "beautiful lady" who identified herself in words Bernadette faithfully reported to the bishop, though she did not understand their meaning: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Relentlessly interrogated, she never wavered in her story or sweetness. Chronically ill all her life and dead at thirty-five, Bernadette left behind the shrine at Lourdes where healing waters still flow from the spring that her "beautiful lady" pointed out to her.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD, merciful and gracious, rich in kindness and faithfulness (Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9).

Psalm — Glory and praise for ever! (Daniel 3).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Live with one another in peace, and the God of peace will be with you (2 Corinthians 13:11-13).

Gospel — God did not send the Son to condemn the world, but to give it abundant life (John 3:16-18).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6; Ps 121:1bc-8; Mt 5:1-12
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:7-16; Ps 4:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39; Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab, 8, 11; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Ps 65:10-13; Mt 5:20-26
Friday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Mt 5:27-32
Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-10; Mt 5:33-37
Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity;
Julian Calendar Pentecost
Monday: Tenth Week in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. Ephrem
Thursday: St. Barnabas
Saturday: St. Anthony of Padua



Thank you all for celebrating God's Love and His Word for so many years. They (Mary & B.J.) loved that church because of all the wonderful people. God bless All of You. The Hall Family



UPCOMING FUNERAL SERVICE FOR LORAIN ROWE KOCMICH

Loraine Rowe Kocmich, a long-time parishioner of Sacred Heart passed away on April 16, 2020. There will be a funeral service for Loraine on Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart. Loraine was sick for a very long time due to a chronic illness. She was missed and will be missed by her family and friends. She worked as a volunteer at S.H. as a money counter for many years. Loraine was 77 years old when she passed. She and her husband Ed Kocmich, were married for 51 years. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

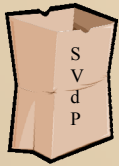


The "Little Church with the Big Heart" always applies throughout the entire year

June 7 — Most Holy Trinity:

As we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity we also realize the mystery of how much God loves and cares for us each day. Believing in this our lives can overflow in thanksgiving and praise.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to believe in the mystery of God's love for them.



St. Vincent de Paul has closed again for the month of June.

A big thank you to those that brought in their Lenten Bags. The items on the bags are everyday products that most of us take for granted. We need those items all year long; so if you think about it when shopping, buy an extra item to donate once in while. We try to

buy toilet tissue, bath soap, and eggs constantly. We definitely couldn't do that without your help. After all we are the "LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART!"

Our "Friends in Need", will need the items on the bag all year long.

So, if you have a bag you have not been able to turn in yet, don't worry, bring them when you can as you can see we will use them all year. Remember you can usually get all the items at Family Dollar, etc. for about \$10.00. Thank you very much!

WE ARE ALMOST THERE DON'T FORGET TO KEEP UP THE SAFETY MEASURES TO STAY HEALTHY

Recommendations to safeguard yourself are:

1. Drink lots of hot liquids; coffee, tea, soups & warm water.
2. Take a sip of warm water every 20 minutes. This keeps your mouth moist and washes any of the virus that has entered your mouth and pushes it into your stomach where the gastric juices will neutralize it before it can get to the lungs.
3. Gargle with an antiseptic in warm water such as salt, vinegar or lemon juice every day if possible.
4. The virus attaches itself to hair and clothes. Any detergent or soap kills it. Take a shower immediately when coming from outside and shampoo your hair.
5. Wash metallic surfaces. The virus can remain viable on this surface for up to 9 days. When not in your home, wear gloves if possible to avoid touching hand rails, door knobs etc. if you can't wear gloves or don't have any, wash your hands immediately and then shower.
6. Regardless if you've gone outside, wash your hands every 20 minutes with soap that foams and do it for 20 seconds.
7. Eat fruits and vegetables. Try to elevate your zinc levels.
8. Animals do NOT spread the virus to people. It's person to person transmission.
9. Try to avoid eating and drinking too many cold things.
10. If you feel a sore throat coming on, gargle with antiseptic immediately. Do it every hour. The virus enters through the throat where it remains for 3-4 days before it passes to the lungs.

From a Friend

A letter from Bishop Malone to All. May 30, 2020

Vigil of Pentecost

My dear brothers and sisters,

To be sure there has been more than enough to distract us during these months of the COVID-19 virus. So much so, that it would be easy to forget that there are other “life” issues that continue to surround us, and which we must address with the same ardor as with this pandemic.

I speak to you about the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd of Minneapolis this past week by members of the Minneapolis police department, and the response of many communities in our country to the taking of his life.

As a student or history, I recall that what was promised in the 19th Century in the condemnation of slavery, what was enacted in legislature in the earl 1960's with the Civil Rights Act, and in the subsequent fight for equal treatment of people of color since then, clearly, there has not been enough to convert the minds of many Americans when it comes to their treatment and attitude towards people of color in our country. Minneapolis is a symptom of the reality that racism continues today much as it has in the past. Racism is not only an evil mindset, it runs so counter to the gospel as to leave us with the question as to why it continues to manifest itself in our day, in this day, in this past week. It is unconscionable for us as a society to allow events such as this to go without comment, and for the African-American community not to hear from us.

The death of George Floyd, so visible in the news, is by any standard offensive and abhorrent to the very heart of who we are as brothers and sisters in the local and larger community. We must not consider this just another news story, nor should we turn a deaf ear to the voices of many communities throughout the country who cry out in pain for justice for Mr. Floyd, for his family and community, and for those who still feel the sting of racism in our country. And certainly there are those many communities who live in fear that their constitutional right to peaceful protest is met with further opposition which only exacerbates, makes worse, the pain of stating that all lives matter, and all life is sacred. I was struck with emotion as I watched on the news Mr. Floyd begging, "I can't breathe," over and over again, until he could breathe no more. Those words are symptomatic of the justifiable mindset and reaction of those who have and remain targets of racism – they are suffocating, their voices are often silenced, the violence begets more violence. When will it end?

As your bishop, I ask you, I beg you to see in the faces of your brothers and sisters, of whatever color or ethnicity, the face of Jesus. I ask you to join me in praying for justice in the face of evil. I ask you to pray for the repose of the soul of Mr. Floyd, for his family who mourns his death, for the community of Minneapolis, and for the increased numbers of communities throughout our country where voices are being raised in protest this weekend. We pray for a peaceful response to this tragedy – but for a strong response nonetheless. And finally, let us never, never forget, that this situation is a “life” situation, demanding of us the same level of response we should give as Catholics to all life issues we face. Failing to do this will only embolden the insipid evil of racism to continue. In the name of Jesus, I proclaim that “It can not – and it must not be this way!”

Your brother in Christ.

+ Francis I. Malone
Bishop of Shreveport



LUCKY NUMBERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ON SALE NOW

You can still get your LUCKY NUMBER for 2021 by calling the office or contacting someone on the Pastoral Council. The next \$100 Visa Gift Card drawing is September 29th. The 3rd and final drawing to kick off the 2021 daily winnings will be December 29th for a \$500 Visa card. This drawing will include all Lucky Number purchased up to December 28th. You do not have to be present to win any of these drawings, you will be contacted.

We hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during this pandemic. Please wash your hands, wear your masks and respect social distancing while getting outside and enjoying this beautiful spring weather. We will soon be together again. God is Good.
Your Pastoral Council



Happy Anniversaries



Christopher & Julie Harris	6/03/2011
Doug & Donna Long	6/06/1970
Bert & Debbie Hayes, Jr.	6/09/2001
Terry & Lisette Moore	6/10/1989
V. J. & Betty Conner	6/12/1954
Michael & Shelly Krieg	6/13/1998
Bill & Sharon Bogues, Jr.	6/22/1970
John V. & Ora Mae Beaudion	6/26/1965
Todd & Heather Carroll	6/26/2015



Happy Birthdays



6/1 LaMarcus Gipson, Sr.	6/20 George Breffheilh
6/1 Blake Massey	6/21 Billy Meshell
6/1 Billy Powell	6/21 Lily Reyes
6/2 Marlyn Pangatungan	6/22 Eva Callicoatte
6/4 William Maudlin	6/22 Loreta Leavitt
6/4 Martin Metoyer, Jr.	6/23 Cayla Flynn
6/5 Ericka Johanek	6/25 Mary Kay Jones
6/6 John Mussey	6/25 Shelly Krieg
6/8 Jeffrey Chandler	6/25 Jennifer Moody
6/9 Laykin McIntyre	6/26 Dona Jolly
6/9 Randy Mobley	6/26 Gary Jones
6/11 Kathy Brookins	6/28 Judd Callicoatte
6/12 Push PaGreer	6/28 Wayne Hagen
6/12 James Heard	6/28 Kenarrien Jackson
6/12 Darien Pierre	6/28 Richard Robinson, Jr.
6/14 Isabella Sims	6/29 Pat LaCour
6/15 Nancy Randall	6/30 Connie Hayes
6/15 LeAsia Williams	6/30 BeBe Sanchez, Jr.
6/17 Qianna Beaudoin	

Our Birthday List is generated from our Shelby Program. If you wish your name and your family's name to appear in our Birthday List and you are a parishioner of Sacred Heart. Please pick up a Census Form in the Foyer of the Church fill it out and place it in the basket at any Mass.

Weekly Collections

Weekly Collection Needed	\$ 4,772.00
Actual Weekly Collection—May 30 & 31, 2020	\$ 2,909.00

Attendance — May 30 & 31, 2020 — 63

Thank you!

There will be a second collection for Peter's Pence the weekend of June 28, 2020.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

New Requests

Mary Davenport
Mary Hernandez

Continued Prayers

Helen Alverdo
Sr. Andre' Aycock, D.C.
Gary Bailes
Daisy Bayone
Donald Benson
Tanyau Bracey
Huck Bradshaw
Michele Brosset
Joseph Brown, Jr.
Kathleen Candler
Garland Cavanaugh
Jennifer Cernigliaro
Chauvin Family
James Coghlan
Grace Collins
V.J. Conner
Paige Comer
Dale Cormier
Dalton & Elnora Corner
Diane Dapier
Darren Davis
Joe Davis
JoAnn Denton
Pam Dixon
Phoenix Dufour
Mary Dupuis
Arthur Emmitt
Jeff Fiisher
Linda Fuller
William & Erin Gardner

Kate Gauthier
Robert Gillespie
Joyce Goins
Milagros Goncer
Vincente Goncer
Jeannette Guastella
Sherry Harper
Phyllis Harris
Sr. Emma Hendricks
Jennifer Herron
Baby Hudson
Jim Hull
Fr. Tim Hurd
Kelly Jones
Terry Jones
Marilyn Joyner
Dr. Mortt Junine
Mark Kapera & Family
Brandi Kennington
Gloria Kerry
Wendy King
Sophia M. Larsen
Matt Lookenot
Leona Mandina
Sr. Gilbert Martin, D.C.
Mary Matthews
Lawson Merick
Josephine Miller
Otto Miller
Juanita Minch
Dennis Mitchell
Sylvia Mobley
Margaret Moore
Moore Family
John Mussey
Fr. Richard Norsworthy

Dorothy Parker
Piper Rae Pate
Anthony Priest
Baby Boy Proctor-Looi
Brian Reed
Margie Remedies
Tammy Rhodes
John Roberson
Marilyn Robbins
Maybelle Roscoe
Judy Rosso
Frances Rost
Mary Ruesch
James Russom
Billy Samuels
Mary Sanders
Dess Schaefer
Bill Sellnow
Adele Serio
Jude Shillings
Shillings Family
Al Simpson
Aleene Sinclair
Betty York Stratton
Billy Samuels
Lloyanda Teneyuque
Michael Thompson
Joetta Waterman
Braylan Welch
Linda Wicker
Ryan Wicker
Bruce Williams
Linda Williams
Richie Williams
James Wood
Sam Zamora

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN:

Maj. Jennifer Herron, Stf. Sgt. Kelly Conner, Sgt. David Duncan, Corp. Adam C. Henson, Lt. Sgt. Joey Martinez, GL6 Shannon Martinski Montes, Sgt. Andrew Montes, Sgt. Terrance Laborde, Capt. Nicholas Smith, Darnell Gillie, Erik Restevio, Aaron Schmidt, and PFC Charles Gilmore, Cobey West, 2nd Lt. Adam Messinger, Pvt. 1st Class Jaxon Wright and women who are serving our country, here and abroad, and for their families awaiting their safe return.

Mary Powell (318-621-0022) is the contact person to add or remove someone from this prayer lists. Let her know when the name should be removed from our prayer list. Names will be removed after four (4) weeks. If you need an extension, also contact Mary Powell.

Beloved Parishioners of St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Churches, welcome back.

God is good...all the time!

Following phase I reopening directives, and guidelines from our Bishop, Francis Malone, we will be resuming public Mass from this weekend (16/17th May). Our Mass times are:

- **St. Mary of the Pines: Saturday 6.00 PM; Sunday 8.30AM and 5.00PM.**
- **Sacred Heart: Saturday 4.00PM; Sunday 10.00AM**

In order to maintain social distancing, we will only have 25% seating capacity for our churches. Thus, seating will be limited!

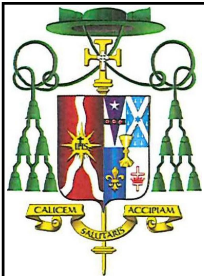
In this regard:

- **St. Mary's Mass goers:** Please call or text to reserve a seat for you and your family (318-507-7645) – as you make the reservation include the number in your party and the Mass you plan to attend. Please make a reservation; it will help us keep track of the numbers.
- **All:** Wearing a mask is required – **and a must** – while within the church compound and during Mass. No one will be admitted in the church without a mask on (covering your nose and your mouth). Be prudent and charitable! As of now, we do not have masks to provide: please bring your own.
- **All:** Observe hygiene: wash your hands, sanitize, and avoid unnecessary contacts with people, animals, and things. There will be hand sanitizer available in the foyer.
- **All:** To make sure that we maintain proper sanitation, the church will be sanitized after every Mass.
- Fr. Mike will distribute Holy Communion to those who will not be able to attend Mass:
 - **Sacred Heart** – on Sunday between 10.45 and 11.15AM.
 - **St. Mary of the Pines** – on Sunday between 12.00 and 12.30PM.
- At St. Mary of the Pines, we will enter the church through the door on the right only: ushers will be there to guide you. On exit, all the four doors of the church will be open for easier exit and to avoid unnecessary congregating at the main door.
- **St. Mary's:** Collection baskets will be placed at the entrance of the church: you can also continue to mail in your tithes and donations or give online on our website www.stmaryshreveport.org
- If you are not able to attend Mass, please join us on Facebook Live:
 - St. Mary of the Pines Facebook page for Masses at St. Mary's Church;
 - Sacred Heart Facebook page for Masses at Sacred Heart Church
- Please note: the obligation to attend Mass is still dispensed – so, if you are not able to come for Mass, especially because you are in a high risk group because of age or an underlying condition, please stay home. We will keep you in prayers and love.

I know it is not an easy time for all of us: thank you for your patience and cooperation as we follow these guidelines for the good of humanity. May the good Lord bless you now and always.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Michael Thang'wa,
Pastor



Diocese of Shreveport

Office of the Bishop

3500 Fairfield Avenue Shreveport, LA 71104

PI-: I: 318-868-4441 FAX: 318-868-4469

Memo to: All Priests and Deacons in the Diocese of Shreveport

From: Bishop Francis I. Malone

Date: May 8, 2020

RE: Directives for Worship During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The mandate promulgated by me, on March 13, 2020, dispensing the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays to the faithful of the Diocese of Shreveport and the restrictions placed on the public celebration of Mass **remains in effect until further notice**. Recognizing the need to begin preparing for the eventuality of once again celebrating Mass with the people, I issue the following directives. Related questions or concerns should be directed to our Vicar General, Fr. Matthew Long at vg@dioshpt.org or to my office.

Directives for Worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic

General Norms:

1. The Faithful continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.
2. If someone has preexisting conditions that make them vulnerable, if they are feeling sick, suspect they may be sick or have a sick member in their family, they should not attend Mass.
3. The number of people who are allowed to gather in the Church for Mass or other events must not exceed 25% of the total church occupancy. (This number may be subject to change based on government directives.)
4. For those who are uncomfortable gathering in a larger group for Sunday Mass but still desire to receive the Eucharist, daily Masses will be available.
5. For parishes whose average Sunday Mass attendance exceeds 25% of the total church occupancy, the following must be done:
 - a. Additional Masses should be added on Sunday and for the Anticipated Mass to accommodate the total number who regularly attend Mass at your parish.
 - b. Mass can also be simulcast to another location on your campus, i.e. gym, parish hall, and then communion distributed in that space.
 - i. All the guidelines as to occupancy and social distancing must be followed.
 - ii. The people should be encouraged to participate fully with responses and postures.

- c. People must reserve the Mass they plan to attend via social media, telephone and/or other electronic means.
 - 1. Those who arrive at a Mass and do not have a registration may be directed to simulcast locations, or are invited to attend Mass at another time.
- 6. All hymnals and missalettes must be removed from the church.
 - a. Singing should not be encouraged for the congregation.
 - b. Music should be limited to instrumental, if possible.

Logistical Considerations:

- 1. Only the main door of the church should be used for entrance, with the exception of those with special needs.
 - a. Doors should be propped open or held open by greeters or ushers.
- 2. Ushers or church staff members must ensure that the number of parishioners allowed into the church does not exceed the occupancy requirement.
 - a. There should be either a prepared roster for attendees at each Mass, or an active count being taken at the door.
- 3. The church must be sanitized after each Mass, including pews, bathrooms and doors.
 - a. You can encourage the parishioners to wipe down the area they sat in or have ushers or staff members do so.
 - b. You can also create a sanitizing ministry, with a crew ready after each Mass.
 - c. You should provide the necessary items to sanitize the church.
- 4. Social distancing must be observed (6 feet apart).
 - a. Families who live in the same household may sit together in one pew.
 - b. Close every other pew in the Church.
 - c. Only allow seating on either end of each pew with a 6 foot neutral zone in the middle.
 - i. Lines must be marked in the aisle to make sure social distancing is observed in the communion line.
- 5. Limit the ministers allowed in the sanctuary to clerics, seminarians and altar servers.
 - a. Use the minimum number of altar servers necessary for a proper celebration of the Mass.
 - b. Utilize only one reader for each Mass.
- 6. Require all ministers to use proper hygiene of their hands.
 - a. Ministers must not touch their eyes, nose or mouth during the Mass.
- 7. Ministers and parishioners must all wear masks during the Mass except during communion.
 - a. Children under the age of seven (7) are not required to wear masks.
- 8. Collection baskets should not be passed among the people. The ushers can either use baskets on long poles or the baskets can be placed at the entrance to the church.
- 9. Church restrooms should be limited to emergency use.
 - a. Encourage parishioners to use the restroom in their home before coming to Mass.
- 10. No paper bulletins or worship aids are allowed.

Liturgical Considerations:

1. It is appropriate to use a recited entrance antiphon and communion antiphon at Masses where there is no entrance or communion hymn.
2. There should be no presentation of gifts. Instead, the gifts should be placed on the credence table or the altar prior to Mass.
3. During the Our Father, the faithful must not hold hands, including families.
 - a. The proper posture is hands clasped in a prayerful position.
4. The priest, deacon and any extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.
 - a. They must also sanitize their hands prior to and after the distribution of Communion.
5. Gloves must not be worn during distribution of Communion by either the Minister or those receiving it.
6. Distribution of Communion:
 - a. Priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion over the age of 65 shall not distribute communion.
 - b. Different ways to distribute Communion:
 - I. All remain in their place and the minister goes throughout the Church passing through the empty pews to distribute to each individual.
 - II. People come forward as usual, maintaining social distancing even in communion lines, and approach the minister as usual. In this option, the front pews must not be used for seating.
 1. It may be effective to mark distance on the floor so that parishioners have an easier time social distancing in line.
 - III. People come forward as usual, maintaining social distancing, but they line up across the front in an area clearly marked and the minister comes to them. In this option, the front pews must not be used for seating.
 - c. Communion must be given with no bodily contact.
 - i. The preferred method of distribution during this time is on the hand.
 - ii. Let the Host touch the person's hand and then release it.
 - d. Communion on the tongue is not encouraged at this time.
 - I. It is at the pastor's discretion if communion on the tongue shall be offered.
 - II. If it has been given the minister must pause, sanitize his hands, and continue the distribution of Communion.
 1. A table approximately waist high and large enough to place hand sanitizer, a towel, and the ciborium should be placed next to the distribution station in order to facilitate the sanitization between communicants.
 - ni. If an entire family is receiving communion on the tongue, it is appropriate to sanitize after distributing to the entire unit as if they were one parishioner.
 - e. The Precious Blood is not to be offered.
 - f. People who are not receiving communion should be discouraged from approaching the ministers for a blessing.

- i. All the people present will receive a blessing prior to g. the dismissal at the conclusion of Mass.
- g. The sign of peace should be omitted from the Communion Rite.
 - i. **If** at the pastor's discretion the sign of peace is to be offered then it should be done with a bow to the other person.

Dismissal:

- 1. Social distancing must be observed at the conclusion of Mass.
 - a. People should be directed not to gather in the Church, the Narthex or the Gathering Space but to exit immediately.
 - b. There should be ushers or staff members who assist in guiding the faithful from the Church.
 - c. The use of multiple exits is encouraged.
 - d. Parishioners should be encouraged to exit immediately so that the sanitization of the church can begin.
 - ↳ Gathering in parking lots should be discouraged in order to respect social distancing and allow room for those arriving for the next Mass.

Thank you for your continued efforts to meet the needs of the people of our Diocese during this challenging time in the life of the Church. Please be assured of my continual prayers and gratitude to each of you and all the people of our diocese.