

Dear Parishioners,

As you know, we are looking forward to the resumption of the public celebration of Holy Mass beginning on Monday, May 18. As we may also know, the celebration of public Masses will be conditioned by the needs to take proper precautions and common-sense measures in order to keep our parishioners who choose to attend Mass safe and healthy. I am expecting to receive protocols for the celebration of Mass with the people during this time of the pandemic sometime next week from our Diocesan Administrator. At that time, I will have more to share with you about what the celebration of Mass will look like, practically speaking, and what kinds of safeguards we will be putting in place.

What I would like to say this weekend, however is this: there are no doubt a variety of opinions that people have about the nature of this pandemic, the severity of the illness, the danger that it poses to society, and the responses that people should be having, specifically in regards to practices of social distancing, wearing masks and/or gloves, and the like. I am certain that we will receive very specific instructions from our Administrator, who is himself being counseled by health care professionals, but in the meantime, I would ask all of us to consider the following. Many of us might have differing opinions about what people should or should not be doing to protect themselves and to protect others. Many of us probably have differing opinions about the actions that the state of Minnesota has taken and continues to take to attempt to effectively respond to the spread of the coronavirus. What I humbly ask of all of us is that we do our best to be compliant with the protocols that will be put in place at our churches under the guidance and direction of our religious superior, Father Bissonette, and that we also try our best not to allow differences of opinion, which are expected and natural, to become sources of division in our parish families. Whatever protocols and practices are asked of us to be put in place for the public celebration of the Mass, please remember: they are intended to be temporary, and they are being put in place by our own religious leaders for the purpose of protecting the health of our parishioners.

So, no matter what our personal beliefs or opinions may be about what is eventually asked of us in regards to practices and protocols for when we attend Mass during this time, I ask that we all please plan to work together, as a family, to help one another, that we be patient with one another and with the Church as she tries to balance the need and desire for worship with the need and desire to protect the health of her people, and rejoice that even if our celebration of Mass might feel a bit curtailed or encumbered by new protocols, we are finally once again able to join together for Mass, and that's what is ultimately important.

As I said, I will have more information for you next week. When the anticipated protocols and procedures are received from Father Bissonette, I will make them known to you in next week's email, and we will also post them on our website, at church, and I will speak to them in my daily podcasts. For now, let's give thanks that our time away from the Eucharist seems to be coming to an end, and may God bless each of you and keep you safe and healthy!

Fr. Steve Laflamme

**Sunday Mass on May 10, 2020 will once again be live-streamed beginning at 10:00am, this weekend from Holy Spirit in Two Harbors. The Mass this Sunday will conclude with Father Steve leading us in a May crowning ceremony.** You can go to your parish's website to find the link to the YouTube live-stream.

**Next Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**, Mass will be live-streamed once again from St. Mary's Church in Silver Bay. Immediately following the conclusion of the Mass, Father Steve will live-stream a May-crowning ceremony of the outdoor statue of Our Lady at St. Mary's. Please plan to join us online!

**Eucharistic Adoration** is available at each parish: **At St. Mary's, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 11:00am until 3:00pm on Wednesdays.** At Holy Spirit, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 8:00am until 12:00pm on Fridays. **The Rite of Solemn Benediction will take place at the conclusion of adoration.** *If you come for Eucharistic Adoration, please observe social distancing requirements and remain at least six feet apart from one another.*

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at the following times and places:**

**Holy Spirit:** Saturdays from 3:30pm – 4:30pm in one of the classrooms in the education center.

**St. Mary's:** Saturdays from 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the crying room in the back of Church.

**Ways of Faith Podcast:** Don't forget to check out your parish website to hear Father Steve's daily podcast during this time of the suspension of public Masses. Each podcast is brief (less than 15 minutes) and is meant to help bolster our understanding and appreciation of our faith. Just go to your parish website and click on the "Ways of Faith" button on the main home page.

**ALSO- Don't Forget** to check out our parish bulletin which can still be found weekly at your parish Church in the back, and also on our parish website! Helpful updates, information and opportunities to learn more about your faith can be found there each week.

**Both Holy Spirit and St. Mary's Churches are open for personal prayer.** See your parish's website for times when your Church is open.