May 26, 2020

Dear Members of Holy Name of Jesus,

I am pleased to announce that we will resume our celebration of Mass beginning this weekend with the Feast of Pentecost on Saturday, May 30, at 5 p.m. Our weekend Mass schedule will remain the same.

As you know, Governor Walz signed an executive order allowing faith communities to celebrate Mass and accommodate up to 250 people or 25% of church capacity, whichever is less, provided that all the necessary precautions to protect public health are implemented. Here at Holy Name of Jesus, we have reviewed those guidelines and made the necessary changes to keep everyone as safe as possible. We will adhere to the Governor’s directive and limit our attendance to 250 at each Mass.

I care about your spiritual and physical health. Those who are considered at-risk (ages 65 and older and those with health conditions) and anyone who feels safer at home should continue to stay home and participate in Mass Online. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended during the pandemic. For those attending Mass we have implemented some changes as outlined below.

Preparing for Mass:

- If you are ill or if anyone in your home is ill, stay home and participate in Mass Online
- We strongly urge you to wear a mask throughout the liturgy, please bring your own
- Bring hand sanitizer for your own use if you have it
- We recommend using the restroom before leaving home, as one family will be allowed in the bathroom at a time
- There will be no paper worship aids provided, they will be available electronically on our webpage www.hnoj.org/mass-online
- There is no nursery provided

Arriving at Mass:

- We recommend that you arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before Mass to allow our custodial staff enough time to sanitize the church
- Please enter the building through Door #1 or #2
- A maximum of 250 people will be admitted into Church; we will not be able to welcome anyone after we have reached capacity
• Please observe a distance of six feet between you (or your family) and others in every direction; we have marked every pew with 6’ tape marks
• In order to comply with social distancing directives, please limit restroom use to one family at a time
• Ushers will welcome you and provide directions
• Each person will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. You may use your own or HNOJ will have some available
• Ushers will help with seating; to meet social distancing guidelines, two out of every three pews have been roped off.

At Mass:

• We recommend that masks be worn throughout the building
• Collection baskets will be placed in the aisles to receive your gift (passing of the basket between rows has been suspended)
• We will not hold hands during the Lord’s Prayer, nor will we exchange the sign of peace
• We will not be singing at Mass (see Judy Hodgson’s explanation in the June Newsletter)
• The distribution of Holy Communion has been modified:
  • Communion will be distributed after the final blessing
  • the Communion procession will follow social distance guidelines and the ushers will assist you
  • Only Sacred Hosts will be distributed, and it will be offered in the hand only
• When you come forward for Communion please wear your mask, after answering “Amen” you may pull your mask down to receive Communion

After Mass:

• Coffee and donuts will not be available until further notice
• To maintain social distancing, please do not visit in the Gathering Space
• The custodial staff will sanitize the church and prepare it for the next liturgy

Time Change for Daily Mass:

In order to better serve those who can’t join us on Sunday we are adjusting the time of daily Mass to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. We will resume the Saturday 8 a.m. Mass in September.

Additional information is available at www.hnoj.org.

Sincerely,

Fr. Steve Ulrick
Pastor