

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

May 11, 2020

Dear

I pray that this letter finds you healthy and safe.

I am excited to welcome you back to celebrate Masses on our regular schedule with us in the Church. Beginning with the 5pm Vigil Mass on Saturday May 16, Holy Spirit will resume public celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. While this is a blessing for all in our Parish, we must remain conscious that the dangers from the Coronavirus are still with us. So, it will come as no surprise that things are going to look a little different for the foreseeable future. Before I provide an overview of those changes, I need to remind all Parishioners of some important points:

- **Even though Mass will be celebrated in our Church, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues.**
- Please DO NOT come to Mass if you are sick or not feeling well.
- **Anyone over 65 and/or those with pre-existing medical conditions are advised to remain at home.**
- Our Live Stream will remain available for the 11am Sunday Mass and the weekday Masses.
- **For those who participate in Mass via live stream, Holy Communion will be distributed by the Ten Commandments in the Portico for 30 minutes following each weekend Mass.** The mask requirement, explained below, will also apply to those coming for Communion.
- The capacity of our Church will be significantly reduced, so parishioners should not expect to attend Mass every weekend.

While we will return to our normal Mass schedule of Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:15am, and 11am. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30am and on Wednesday 7pm. There will be a number of changes to Mass procedures:

- **Everyone must wear a mask throughout the entire Mass, removing it only to receive Holy Communion. Parishioners should bring their own masks.**
- In case that you will not have a mask, the parish will provide you what you need by donation.
- Proper social distancing remains extremely important. Every pew will be marked with blue tape. Families may sit together and a 6-foot separation between non-family members must be maintained. "Ushers will assist in seating to insure effective use of available space".

- In order to accommodate this limited seating, parishioners must reserve their seats online before each weekend.
- Registrations for each weekend will open the prior Monday at 10am, and ends on Thursday 4pm or when we meet our maximum capacity.
- Seat reservations for May 16/17 Masses are now open at <https://www.holyspiritchurchjax.org>
- Everyone will follow the Ushers' instructions and maintain a safe distance processing to the front to receive Holy Communion which can only be received in the hand. If gloves are worn, they must be removed.
- Entrance to the Church will be limited to the 2 doors in the portico of the Church. Ushers will be stationed at these doors to help direct traffic as well as to ensure social distancing and that everyone is wearing a mask before entering our Church.
- Mass will be celebrated without Altar Servers.
- Hymnals and Missalettes will be removed from the pews.
- Collection baskets will be placed at the doors of the Church; baskets will not be passed. We strongly encourage online giving at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy1166175>
- To allow time for Church pews to be sanitized, doors will open 15 minutes before Mass and everyone must exit the church upon dismissal with no congregating on the property.
- Our church will be completely sanitized with a viral disinfectant on Friday May 15 prior to re-opening. Thanks to our parishioner, Mark Tolleson, owner of Process Master.

Sacraments:

- Reconciliation will be available every Saturday from 3:45pm to 4:45pm, or by appointment. Father will hear Confessions in the garden in front of the school.
- Baptisms, weddings and funerals will be scheduled adhering to social distancing requirements.
- **Please visit our website <https://www.holyspiritchurchjax.org> for more details.**

It is going to take all of us, including me, time to adjust to the “new normal” of Parish life. Holy Spirit is very blessed to have so many caring Parishioners and I ask for your understanding as we all work our way through the coming months.

Yours in Christ and Mary,

Fr. Amar MSFS