

Dear Friends in Christ:

We are so happy and eager to welcome you back to the public celebration of Mass. This has been a long time coming (**91 days** to be exact), and we are overjoyed at the prospect of once again being gathered around Christ's altar in our beautiful Holy Trinity Parish with you. We are resuming our regular weekend Mass schedule on the evening of Saturday, June 13th with the 4:00 Mass. Mass times thereafter will be: Daily Masses on Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m. And Weekend Masses on Saturday at 4:00 p.m., and Sunday at 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

The Bishop is continuing the suspension of your obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. We also strongly encourage anyone who is 60 or older, or with medical conditions, to not attend Mass at this time. Of course, if you or anyone in your household are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 (shortness of breath, fever, or cough) you must not attend.

We have been carefully preparing new procedures with the guidance of the Diocese and the state to ensure the safety of all our parishioners. With that being said, there is always some risk involved when attending public functions. You will notice some changes as you return to Holy Trinity for Mass; and we ask that you respectfully follow those changes while here. Below are the new procedures and protocols you will see. Please read them completely and carefully. (You will also find a copy of these procedures on our parish website.)

During this initial phase of our Diocesan reopening, we are limited to a maximum of 20% of our seating capacity. Allowing for the necessary six-foot social distancing, that means **we will be able to seat 100 people for Mass for the time being.**

### **Reservations for Sunday Masses**

- Because it will be impossible to accommodate all of our parishioners for Sunday Masses, we are asking parishioners to reserve their seat on-line or call parish office each weekend. Please go to our parish website ([www.holytrinitywestmont.org](http://www.holytrinitywestmont.org)) in order to do so, and follow the prompts from our home-page.

### **Arrival and Seating for Sunday Masses**

- Please arrive no earlier than 20 minutes prior to the start of Mass, and put on your face mask as you exit your car. You will keep your mask on the entire time until returning to your car, with the exception of receiving Holy Communion.
- Enter only through the **Main Center doors (C1)**.
- Please maintain six-foot social distancing at all times with people not from your own household, and use the provided hand sanitizer before entering the church.
- When it is time to enter the church, Staff assistants will show you to your seat. We will begin seating from the front of the church, moving toward the back. Please note that you may not be able to sit in your "usual" seat or pew for Mass. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Temporary Changes for Sunday and Daily Masses**

- The "sign of peace" will be temporarily suspended, and you are kindly asked to not hold hands during the Our Father, even with members of your own household.

- There will be no holy water in the fonts by the church doors, or hymnals in the pews.
- We will not pass the collection basket. Instead, you will be able to drop your donation into a wooden box in the center aisle as you enter/exit.
- Singing will be limited in order to minimize the spread of germs through the air.
- Holy Communion will only be distributed by the priests and deacons. Please stay in your pew and priest and deacon will come to you.
- For now, at the direction of the Bishops, we will only be able to distribute Holy Communion on the hand. After you consume, please put your face mask back in place.
- Altar Servers, ushers, and EMHC's will not be needed for the time being.
- At the end of Mass, please wait for a Staff assistant to dismiss you from your pew; and please do not congregate in the narthex or parking lot, but return to your car in a timely fashion, to allow us time to prepare for the next Mass.
- Unfortunately, the priests and deacons will not be able to greet you in the narthex after Mass for the same reason.
- You will exit only through the Main church doors.

### **Sanitation and Safety Precautions**

- Parish Staff will clean and sanitize the church and common areas after each Mass.
- Please do not bring any sanitizing supplies or wipes with you that contain bleach, as they will damage the wood of the pews and other items.

### **Arrival and Seating for Daily Masses Only**

- Reservations are not required for daily Masses.
- The church doors will be unlocked 20 minutes before the scheduled Mass time.
- A Staff assistant will greet you at the Main doors of the Church.
- You will also exit through the Main Church doors at the end of Mass. Please do not linger in the narthex, but return directly to your car.
- **All other "Temporary changes" listed earlier will apply.**

We know that these changes will take some time to get used to, and will require adjustments and flexibility from all of us. And we understand that some people may prefer to continue worshipping at home due to the new procedures and protocols, and that is okay too! Our hope is that many of these changes will no longer be necessary when we move into the State's fifth and final phase for reopening. In the meantime, we deeply appreciate your patience and cooperation as we all try to do our part to keep everyone safe and healthy at Mass at Holy Trinity Parish. We can't wait to see you and to celebrate with you in person! Please be assured of our continued prayers for you and your loved ones. And let us all continue to pray for an end to the pandemic, and for safety for all. God bless you and keep you always!

Fraternally yours in the Risen Christ,

Father Rafal, C.R.

13 June 2020