

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Rev. William A. Moorby, Pastor

Dear Parishioners:

10/6/2020

We resumed Masses on June 14, 2020, The Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, when we received word from the Bishop Matano's Office that we could begin having public Masses with a **maximum attendance of 25% of the seating capacity of the church** and with the provision that we adhere to the social distancing policy of six feet between persons at all times. The limit of 25% of the seating capacity of the church has since been changed to 33% of the seating capacity of the church which we are currently operating under. We are disinfecting the churches after each Mass. We also resumed daily Masses for the public at all four of our churches. No Sunday Masses are being celebrated at St. Michael's Church in Union Springs because of its limited capacity. We have revised the Mass schedule during this time. The weekend Mass schedule is: Saturday at 5:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, Aurora; Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Church, Moravia and 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church in King Ferry.

Bishop Matano in a memorandum to the priests stated:

"It must be noted that even with all precautions taken, there still will be a risk for anyone who attends a public gathering to contract the coronavirus. Anyone who is sick should stay home, as should anyone who fears contracting a disease by attending Mass. Parishes should communicate clearly to parishioners who are vulnerable that they should remain at home in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). **For this reason, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will remain suspended for all Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester until further notice.** Priests themselves must be aware of their own vulnerabilities. They must be aware of the possibility of becoming infected themselves or infecting others. They are obliged to exercise caution and prudence. Age and health may impose further restrictions and modifications at the parish level."

What is now different as we celebrate Mass at 33% of the seating capacity of the church during this pandemic?

We are keeping ministers to a minimum so more people can come: only the Priest, Cantor, Musician, and Lector will serve.

There will be no Altar Servers, Greeters, Sacristans, Choir, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Every other pew will be roped off

There will be signs indicating where you should sit

Everyone will be asked to keep **6 feet distance from others at all times** (those who live together can sit together)

Everything that is not essential has been removed to reduce cleaning and the possibility of contamination. No extra furniture, no hymnals, no pew cards, no book of intercessions, etc. There will be no procession with the gifts, and no opening and closing processions.

Ushers will not be collecting your offerings. **You** are asked to donate online or mail your offering to the parish office, or place your Envelope in a basket as you enter the church.

Access to the church will be through the front door which will be propped open.

Everyone over 2 years old is asked to wear a mask (no exceptions). You should put your mask on before leaving your car and keep it on until you get back in your car.

You are asked to use hand sanitizer as you enter the church.

You are asked to remain still in your seat at the end of Mass until a minister indicates you can leave, so that we preserve social distance in leaving.

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What is now different as we celebrate Mass at 33% of the seating capacity of the church during this pandemic? continued

There will be no gatherings before or after Mass, you are asked to leave and immediately get in your car.

At this time, given the difficulty on maintaining social distance and rigorous and frequent cleaning our restrooms will not be open before, during or after Mass.

Holy Water fonts and Baptismal fonts will remain empty

There will be no Sign of peace

There will be no holding hands at the Our Father or any other time.

There will be no congregational singing

Crying rooms will be closed.

All frequent touch surfaces will be disinfected before and after each Mass

What about Holy Communion?

Reception of Holy Communion on the tongue remains permissible, as required by the liturgical law of the Church, with the admonition that the faithful should be strongly encouraged to receive Communion in the hand for the duration of the pandemic.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, please come up last. Then, lower your mask, extend your tongue fully and then move to the side to replace your mask. Then return to your pew by the side aisle.”

Holy Communion may not be distributed with gloves, nor may it be received in the hand if a member of the faithful is wearing gloves.

When receiving Holy Communion, communicants should minimize the time when their mask is lowered

What about other Sacraments?

Confessions are always available by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick is available by request.

Funerals, Baptisms and Holy Matrimony can be celebrated with a total of 33 % of the capacity of the church in attendance.

What about Mass online for those who are unable to attend Public Masses?

We plan on continuing to post the Sunday Mass on line at our parish website, www.thegoodshepherd.cc and on the parish Facebook page.

A request from our Parish Office to you. To facilitate better communications from our office to you we need to update our list of parishioner email addresses. Please send your current email address to the Parish Office at gsc@dor.org.

As we go forward I am counting on everyone to work together to provide as safe an environment as possible when we celebrate Masses. Our practice might be different during this time but the Real Presence of our Lord will be the same and we still have the opportunity of receiving the Lord in the Eucharist.

God's blessings and peace, *Father Bill Moorby*



St. Patrick - Our Lady of the Lake - St. Patrick - St. Michael
Aurora King Ferry Moravia Union Springs