

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Rev. William A. Moorby, Pastor

Dear Parishioners:

6/8/2020

We received word from the Bishop Matano's Office that we can begin having public Masses with a **maximum attendance of 25% of the seating capacity of the church** with the provision that we adhere to the social distancing policy of six feet between persons at all times. We will begin Masses on the weekend of June 13/14, the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, with a revised schedule. Since St. Michael Church is small and more difficult to have people sit six feet apart from each other we will not have Mass there for the time being. **Our revised Mass Schedule as we resume public Masses will be: Saturday Mass at 5:00pm at St. Patrick Church, Aurora and Sunday Masses at St. Patrick Church in Moravia at 8:30am and at Our Lady of the Lake, King Ferry at 10:30am.** We will have to disinfect the churches after each Mass. As we begin resuming public Masses we will begin only with the Sunday celebrations and will resume daily Masses for the public as we go forward. We have volunteers to clean and disinfect the churches as we begin but can use more as we go forward. If you are willing to help with this task please call the Parish Office at 315-364-7197 to volunteer.

As we begin to resume public Masses please be advised that we need to take seriously the precautions that are spelled out in this letter. Below are words from Bishop Matano as well as what will be different as we celebrate the Eucharist in this time of working together to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

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 will be different as we resume Mass?

We will keep 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 will be removed to reduce cleaning and 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 place your Envelope or offerings in a basket as you enter the church.

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

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What will be different as we resume Mass? continued

Everyone over 2 years old will be 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 will be asked to use hand sanitizer as you enter the church.

You will be 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.

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 25 % of the capacity of the church in attendance.

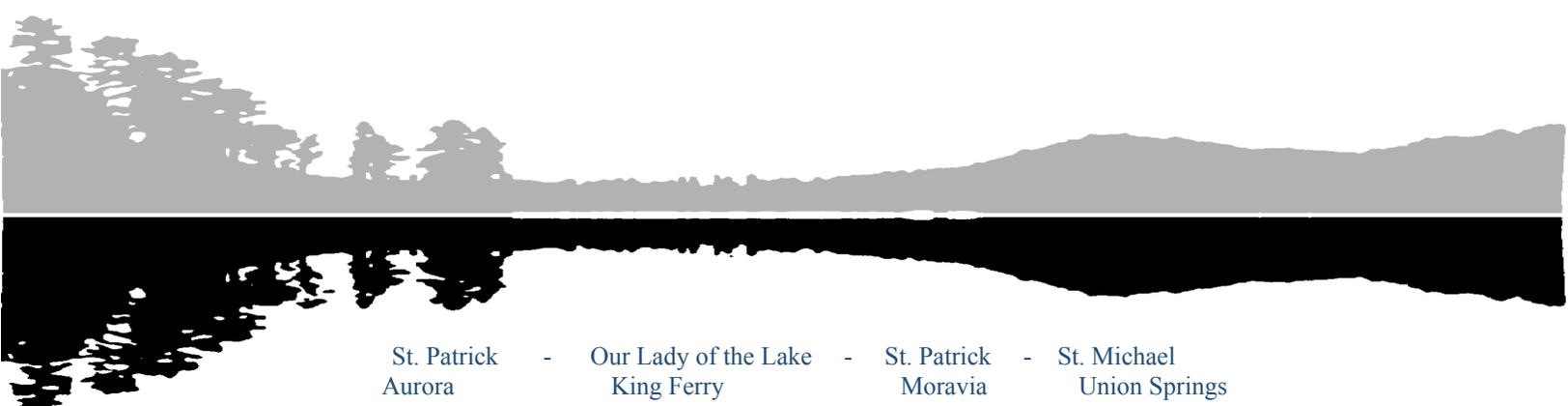
What about Mass online for those who are unable to attend Public Masses?

We plan on continuing to post the Sunday Mass on line at our parish website, www.thegoodchepherd.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 resume public Masses. Our practice might be different as we resume Mass but the Real Presence of our Lord will be the same and will give all the opportunity of receiving the Lord in the Eucharist. It is so fitting that we are resuming public Masses on the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.**

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



St. Patrick
Aurora

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Our Lady of the Lake
King Ferry

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St. Patrick
Moravia

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St. Michael
Union Springs