



Parish of the Precious Blood
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Fr. David R. Raymond, Pastor
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May 30, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

The cross that you and the people around the world are given to carry during this pandemic is a heavy one. Be assured of my prayers as we travel this pilgrimage together. The Bishop of Portland, Most Rev. Robert Deeley and the Maine CDC, have given us permission to hold public Masses beginning in June. However, the permission comes with severe limitations and restrictions thanks to Covid-19.

We are planning to open the Parish of the Precious Blood for Mass the weekend of June 6 and 7. This is subject to change pending new directives from the Bishop and the CDC. We will be limited to 50 people or less and the restrictions will include the requirement to wear a mask throughout the Mass except for communion and the requirement to socially distance while in the church. As happy as I am to have a live congregation in church, I am also aware of the struggle it will be to organize this in a fair and manageable fashion, and to meet all the guidelines and requirements given to us to follow. Our parish leadership and staff have been meeting to consider various ways to achieve this and we are committed to do our best so as many of you as possible may have the opportunity to enter their beloved churches and to receive the Holy Eucharist.

We will offer you more detailed information as needed, but for now, let me share with you the most basic information.

1. For the present, Bishop Deeley continues to dispense all the faithful from the obligation to take part in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. We will continue to offer pre-recorded Masses but from one location only. So, if you are ill, at high risk for the virus, or simply do not feel safe to be in public gatherings at this time, you should stay home and continue to view the Livestream Masses. If you are uncomfortable with having to wear a mask throughout the Mass, then you also should not come to a live Mass. The same is true if you do not care to socially distance yourself before, during, and after Mass.
3. **If you are interested in attending a live Mass of your choice, you will need to call your Church contact person to register for the mass you plan to attend. See the contact list below. We will ask for your name and phone number so that contact tracing is possible if ever needed. Again, each site is limited to 50 or less people (actually, more like 45 when you consider the Priest, Lector, Cantor, Musician, Usher.) We will ask for your name and phone number so that contact tracing is possible if ever needed. Again, each site is limited to 50 or less people (actually, more like 45 when you consider the Priest, Lector, Cantor, Musician, Usher.)**

CHURCH	MASS	CONTACT	NUMBER	WHEN TO CALL	TIME TO CALL
St. Mary	4:00 PM Sat.	Theresa Fowler	227-4390	Mon. – Fri.	6:00-9:00 PM
		Leah Girardin	764-6226	Mon. – Fri.	6:00-9:00 PM
	9:00 AM Sun.	Theresa Fowler	227-4390	Mon. - Fri.	6:00-9:00 PM
		Leah Girardin	764-6226	Mon. – Fri.	6:00-9:00 PM
St. Joseph	*NO MASS				
Holy Rosary	4:00 PM Sat.	Cindy Blanchette	227-0035	Mon./Wed./ Thurs.	9:00-11:00 AM
	9:00 AM Sun.	Mary Ellen Field	999-2378	Mon./Wed./Thurs.	9:00-11:00 AM
St. Denis	11:00 AM Sun.	Mona Lynch	473-7909	1 st Week – for Jun. 7	
		Ed Schupbach	498-0502	2 nd Week – for Jun. 14	
St. Mark	10:30 AM Sun.	Chris Grover	435-2591	Using Calling Tree	
Our Lady	9:00 AM Sun.	Corrine Routhier	227-0819	Anytime	9 AM – 7 PM
St. Catherine	6:00 PM Sat.	Barb Caron	455-4069	Using Calling Tree	
St. Louis	11:00 AM Sun.	Steve Brooker	551-8203	Using Calling Tree	
Sacred Heart	5:30 PM Sat.	Betty Thompson	498-8741	Using Calling Tree	
St. Theresa	4:00 PM Sat.	Rosemary Hede	492-2390	Anytime	9 AM – 9 PM

Logistical and Liturgical changes:

1. Some pews will be blocked off which will minimize the number of pews that each church will need to disinfect after each mass.

2. You will be asked to respect the 6' social distancing protocol at all times, even at Communion. Communicants will be dismissed one pew at a time for Communion. Families can sit together in the same pew.
3. Only one door will be used to enter and leave the church.
4. You will be required to wear a face mask at all time, except when receiving Communion. Please bring your own mask.
5. You will be asked to leave if you have not registered in advance to attend. This is to be fair to everyone.
6. There will be no physical contact at the Sign of Peace.
7. The Sacred Cup will not be offered to the faithful during Communion.
8. ****Please receive communion in the hand.**

****** The directive to receive Holy Communion in the hand is not being made from a theological standpoint, but from one of concern for public safety. There are some who could be tempted to take each one of these accommodations being made, in light of our unprecedented situation, in order to make a theological posture. Let us keep it firmly in the light of how all of these accommodations are being made with the primary concern for public safety.

As priests, just as we scrambled to make accommodations for Mass to be available online, and other accommodations for prayer and Sacraments, we are now working very hard to abide by what is being directed so that public Mass can be made available. It is perfectly fine to have a personal preference for how to receive Holy Communion. Both receiving in the hand and receiving on the tongue are valid methods.

In order to have public Masses offered in our Diocese, among the many other directives being made with the motivation of public safety, receiving Holy Communion in the hand is currently one of them.

I am not a scientist or a doctor. Yet, in light of the current common measure of wearing a mask with the motivation to protect not only yourself but others, the Bishop has given clear directives on how we may be able to proceed with offering public Mass. If your own personal preference remains so strong that you are not able to adapt for the purpose of the present measures being taken for safety to the valid practice of receiving Holy Communion in the hand, you are free to make a spiritual communion at that time, as we have been doing for the past seven weeks.

May God Bless us all,

Fr. Dave