

# Covid-19 and MHT Update

April 26th 2021

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce some new developments in our efforts to reopen our church during this time of Covid – 19

## **Additional Mass**

Beginning this weekend, May 1<sup>st</sup> we will be adding a new mass at **6 pm on Saturdays.**

## **Additional Seating Opportunities**

Beginning this weekend, May 1<sup>st</sup>, we will add an additional position to each of our pews. This will allow three groups per pew instead of the present two.

This response to the growing desire to attend mass will provide more seating and attendance options while still maintaining safety protocols.

## **Expanding Office Hours**

last week we began expanding our office hours to reflect the improved situation in our community. Our offices are now open **Monday through Thursday, 8 am until 2 pm.** With our staff fully vaccinated we can now offer more services safely.

## **What to Expect at Mass**

While we celebrate these changes, our general protocols will continue:

- Mask wearing is still required in accordance with Diocesan protocols.
- Reservations are still required so make your reservations via our website or call us at 520-.
- Eucharist will be given to each person at their seats instead of outside
- Collections in support of the parish will also now be give during mass at your seat in the traditional manor of a basket offered by ushers.
- Re-establishment of ushers to help with seating and collections
- Requirement that all minister must have received their full vaccines plus two weeks.

**With these changes in mind all of you who still feel uncomfortable with attending mass because of Covid-19 are still dispensed from attending mass by our bishop.**

- Outdoor communion distribution will still continue for the time being for those who wish to continue watching mass on line or on television.
- Our online mass will continue to be celebrated and published on YouTube.

## **Reason for Change**

Throughout the pandemic the rationale for our efforts has been to protect each other from a deadly contagious virus while at the same time still providing necessary ministry to the community. We also worked hard to follow diocesan and County Health Dept. guidelines. As you know, this balancing act has not been easy but our efforts and success as a faith community has led to this moment where we can begin to open up more opportunities. The big reason for this success has been the pace of vaccinations that is occurring in our faith community and the state at large. Because of this, we are now able to offer you more opportunities to celebrate mass in-person. **However, we still need to get everyone vaccinated as soon as possible so we can continue to open up even more in the future.**

**As we begin this new schedule and seating options, our protocols of masks, registration etc. is still very important to follow.** While we are seeing huge progress, we are still not out of the woods yet. However, we are on our way and this change is a symbol of that process. This is worth thanking God for the good work we have all done.

In making this change I want to thank you for your cooperation and support during this unique time. We have pulled together beautifully and it shows. As of today, we have not had one direct covid-19 related funeral at our parish. Even my doctor was amazed when I told him this fact. We have supported each other in ways I never thought possible, reaching out to each other and our neighbors. I also want to thank you for your patience with me and the reservations system. I know it is frustrating and sometimes difficult but it has protected our most vulnerable and that is something to also give thanks to God for. Ultimately, we can celebrate this progress **because you made it happen.**

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for your love and care of our community. May God continue to bless you and the community as we move boldly forward to a new day.

Yours in the Savior,

Fr. Tom Tureman SDS  
Pastor