

Re-opening for public Mass

I hope this email finds you well and staying safe. It has been decided we will re-open for our first Public Mass on Sunday July 12th at 10AM. We have many guidelines that we must follow to do this safely. To maintain social distancing, we will only be able to accommodate 50 people at this first Mass. Therefore, we are asking that you register with the office to let us know you are planning to attend. You can register either by replying to this email or calling the office at 331-2040 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and the number of people attending.

We ask that you plan on arriving 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass. You will be greeted outside the church where screening will take place and temperatures will be checked with non-contact thermometers. You will be asked the following three questions:

- Have you or anyone in your household had a fever in the past two (2) weeks?
- Do you or anyone in your household have a new cough or new shortness of breath?
- Have you come into contact with anyone who is positive with COVID-19 in the past two (2) weeks?

If any individual or household responds “yes” to any question, has a temperature over 100 degrees, or are not wearing a face covering (if they are age 10 and older), they will not be permitted to enter the church.

Ushers will seat all parishioners starting at the front of the church. You must sit where the ushers direct.

A list of attendees, along with contact information, will be gathered for each public Mass or liturgical celebration. This information will be used to contact attendees in the case of a positive COVID-19 identification. This information will be maintained for 30 days and then disposed of following guidelines for the disposal of personal information. This information is for internal use for contact tracing only.

As we venture into this time of change for celebrating our liturgy, I welcome you with an open heart. Please be safe and pray for each other. Please remember your own safety and well-being. If you are in the vulnerable category, **PLEASE STAY HOME**.

- Vulnerable category. Parishes are strongly encouraged to stress upon the faithful in a vulnerable category (i.e., older adults, those 65 years and older; people who are immunocompromised) to remain home, as per the recommendation of the CDC and the Governor of Virginia. Further, parishes are strongly encouraged to avoid asking those in a vulnerable category to volunteer as ministers at Mass.
- Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass. Due to the capacity limit for liturgies, in turn limiting the number of faithful who can attend Mass and recognizing, too, that those in a vulnerable category should remain home, Bishop Knestout dispenses all of the faithful of the Diocese of Richmond from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days until further notice.