



Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

702 Summit Avenue
Crookston, MN 567 16
Phone: 218-281-1735
Fax: 218-281-1747
www.crookstoncathedral.org

May 30, 2020 (Feast of Pentecost)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that the last weekend Mass we celebrated in person was back in the middle of March. I miss you! It has been a blessing to come to many of your homes through the internet and we will continue to offer Mass this way. Keeping people safe and healthy has been worth all of our sacrifices. **Even as we begin to open Mass again to the public many people will continue to stay at home and appropriately so. The bishops of Minnesota continue to stress that there is no obligation to attend Mass at this time.** We are beginning to offer Mass open to the public this weekend with many important protocols in place to ensure social distancing and to minimize the risk of any spread of the virus.

Mass will resume at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and at St. Peters the weekend of May 30th. Here is our schedule.

Saturday (5/30) Mass at 5:00pm @ Cathedral

Sunday (5/31) Mass at 9:00am @ Cathedral

Sunday (5/31) Mass at 10:30am @ St. Peters

The first Daily Mass will be on Tuesday (June 2nd) @ 7:45am. (There is NO service on June 1st.)

The parish office will open on June 2nd. Please note: NO OTHER PARISH ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN MASS ARE OPEN YET. Follow our website for updates of other openings.

After this opening weekend, we will maintain the same weekend Mass schedule as above and daily Mass at the Cathedral will be at 7:45am. (Please note that on Mondays we will have a communion service led by our Deacons.)

So how does this work? First, remember “those over age 65 are strongly encouraged not to attend (yet). In addition anyone showing any symptoms of sickness, or anyone who has a household member who is sick or showing symptoms of sickness should not attend.”

Everyone will be asked to wear a mask at Mass for the protection of all who are attending. Masks will be provided for those who do not have one yet or were unaware of this requirement. Before Mass begins you will be asked to wait outside keeping social distance. The doors of the church ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CHURCH (DOOR #2) will be opened by the ushers when they are ready, and they will greet each person/household individually and usher you to your seat. Imagine being ushered into a wedding. Due to social distancing and the need to sanitize our space, people will be seated from the front to the back. Just like a wedding, we will have to be flexible as to where we are seated.

The Mass will be blessedly the same and yet will be notably different. The priest will walk you through the changes during Mass, but here are some things you will note.

- Remember we will be using the WEST SIDE DOORS ONLY (DOORS #2)
- You will be ushered in, offered a mask if you do not have one, and asked to sanitize your hands.
- For safety, our Holy Water fonts have been emptied.
- You will be able to place your offering in the plate on the way in.
- We will seat from the front to the back beginning with the middle section and there will be pews left empty and marked seating to ensure social distancing.
- We will not be singing hymns or responses. (You will note that the hymnals and missals have been removed from the pews.)
- Holy Communion will be brought to you in the pew by the priest or deacon who will be wearing a mask and will be received only by the consecrated host. You can receive communion the way you normally have chosen to do.
- Mass will be most likely shorter due to these adjustments. There will be a bathroom available in the building.
- At the end of Mass everyone will be asked to be seated, and the ushers will usher out one row at a time beginning from the back row.
- We regret that there will not be any social gatherings after Mass at this time. Everyone will be asked to proceed to the parking lot after Mass and not socialize in the church.

All of the protocols that our parish will be following are found in a document titled "Parish Preparedness (Covid-19) Plan for a Return to Public Masses in the Diocese of Crookston." It can be found in its entirety on the Diocese of Crookston website (crookston.org) and the Cathedral website (crookstoncathedral.com). I understand that each individual has differing opinions regarding how best to ensure public safety. As a diocese we are committed to the Parish Preparedness Plan and if you are not able or willing to help us by following these guidelines I do ask that you then wait to return to Mass.

This is a beginning and as you can see, we are taking many precautions to keep everyone safe. Still, much like going to the grocery store, safety begins with individuals making prudent decisions. In God's providence our first Mass will be on Pentecost; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that gives birth to the Church. Whether you join us in person or online this weekend, we are praying for an end to the pandemic, for your safety and care and for peace, love, joy, patience and all the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) so much needed in our time.

I am so very grateful to our staff and leadership team for all of their work to prepare our parish for this weekend. Angie Robertson has also prepared a wonderful Q&A for our bulletin.

Blessings,



Fr. Vincent

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of us your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth."