May 7, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

*Praised be Jesus Christ!*

I am pleased to announce that Archbishop Sample has made the decision to authorize a phased and limited reopening of the public celebration of Holy Mass in the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, beginning this weekend. His authorization applies to all parishes with the capability to safely open Masses to the public in a way that is in accordance with the physical distancing measures in place, and he has left it to the prudential judgement of the pastor to make that determination. After consulting with my pastoral team, I have made the determination that we can safely open up the celebration of Holy Mass to the public beginning Saturday May 9, 2020 with the Saturday Vigil Mass.

With my pastoral team and in accord to the directives established by the Archbishop, we have come up with a plan to safely re-open Masses to the public here at St. John the Baptist. This reopening will not mean an immediate return to our normal practices prior to the suspension of public Masses, nor does this plan represent a permanent way forward; rather, this plan is meant as a temporary course of action during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This plan will change as warranted or necessary; please be patient and understanding with these changes.

There are some primary points about our plan that I would like to share with you about the reopening of the public celebration of Holy Mass here at St. John the Baptist:

1. Archbishop Sample’s dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains in place.
2. Anyone who chooses to attend Holy Mass does so at their own risk. Those who are vulnerable or at-risk, or any individuals who are otherwise concerned should remain at home.
3. Anyone experiencing the slightest symptoms of infection or illness must remain at home.
4. Social distancing will be practiced at all times at Holy Mass, and attendance at Holy Mass will be limited in accord with government directives (e.g. 25, 50, 250, etc.). At the issuing of this letter, the limit on public gatherings is 25 persons.
5. Live streaming of all Masses will continue for those who cannot or choose not to attend Holy Mass in person.
6. These directives apply to all Masses (Sunday Mass, weekday Mass, funerals, weddings, etc.).
7. These directives do not apply to other gatherings (classes, groups, etc.). All other gatherings outside the celebration of Holy Mass remain canceled until further notice.

**General Principles for Attending Holy Mass**

The current social (physical) distancing directives restrict crowds to no more than 25 people, which also includes the priest, ministers, and essential staff or volunteers. Thus, we will only be able to accommodate between 15-20 individuals per Mass. If you or your household would like to attend Holy
Mass, you must sign-up (directions below). Those who have not signed-up will not be allowed inside the church. In the spirit of fairness, the staff of St. John the Baptist will work to ensure that all who desire to attend Holy Mass have the opportunity to do so. In the spirit of charity, all are expected to be patient and to understand that you may not be able to attend Holy Mass every week.

**Schedule of Holy Masses During Limited Reopening**
To give more parishioners an opportunity to attend Holy Mass, several new Mass times have been added, and to allow for adequate time to clean and disinfect the church between Masses, existing Mass times have been adjusted. During this time of limited reopening, the weekday and Sunday Mass schedule will be the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Weekday Mass</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday-Friday:</td>
<td>8:30am (English) and 4:00pm (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday:</td>
<td>7:00pm (<em>en español</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday:</td>
<td>8:30am (English)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sunday Mass</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Vigil:</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday:</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm (<em>en español</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Sacrament of Reconciliation</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday:</td>
<td>2:30pm – 3:30pm (or by appointment)</td>
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**How to Sign-Up for Holy Mass:**
You may sign up to attend the celebration of Holy Mass through phone call, text message, or email:

**Phone call or text message:** (503) 757-7580
**Email:** signup@sjbeartholicchurch.org

Whichever method you choose, please leave your name and the names of every person in your household who will be attending, as well as a contact number. Let us know which weekend Mass you would like to attend along with two choices of weekday Masses, and we will do our best to accommodate your preferences. Also keep in mind that your phone call, text, or email do not guarantee spots at your preferred Masses. If your preferences have already been filled, we will contact you to help you find alternatives.

*Please note: only sign ups that are received at the phone number or email address above will be added to the attendance lists for Holy Mass.*

**Expectations while Attending Holy Mass:**
1. Only those individuals and households who have signed up for a particular Mass will be allowed entry into the church building. **No exceptions.**
2. All attendees must be in their seats at least five minutes before Mass begins. No one will be admitted into the church building after Mass has begun.
3. For the safety of all in attendance, please follow all directions and signs clearly displayed.
4. Only enter and exit through designated doors.
5. We ask that everyone consider wearing a face mask in the church building, but this will not be required unless you choose to sing during Mass. If you choose to wear protective gloves, they must be removed prior to receiving Holy Communion on the hand.
6. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be made available. You are encouraged to wipe down your pew before and after Mass to assist us in keeping our church building safe for others.
7. Sit only in the designated pews and please maintain a physical distance of six feet from other people at all times (except members of the same household), including before and after Mass and during the distribution of Holy Communion.
8. The missalettes and hymnals have been removed from the church and will not be used. You are welcome to bring your own printed publication (e.g., Magnificat), missal, or mobile app to follow along.
9. We will not pass the collection basket in the church. You may drop your contribution into the collection basket near the entrance upon arriving. You may also make your offering online or via electronic bank-to-bank transfer.
10. As some who are present may perceive reception of Holy Communion on the tongue as a greater risk to safety, those who wish to receive on the tongue are kindly asked to wait until the end of the line to present themselves for Holy Communion.
11. After each Mass, door handles, pews, and bathrooms will be sanitized. Because of this, parishioners are asked not to linger or visit with each other in the church building before or after Masses.

I am thrilled to begin reopening St. John the Baptist! Masses and the entire campus have not been the same during these nearly two months of closure. I am very grateful to my pastoral and school team, volunteers, and many others for all their ingenuity and dedication to ensure our parish and school family stays connected. I am thankful to all who continued to support the mission of our parish and school financially during these challenging times. Lastly, I am grateful for the prayers and support for me. I truly felt your support! Know that all of you have been in my daily prayers and in my heart at the altar.

As I said at the beginning of this crisis, we are in this together, this is no less true today that it was then. A family that prays together, stays together. Let’s continue to hold each up through prayer and kindness. I look forward to seeing you all real soon!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. John Marshall
Pastor

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