



“Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation... What on God’s good earth is more glorious than this; to be a mother?”

~Cardinal Mindszenty

My Dear St. Joseph Parish Family,

We wish a **Happy Mother’s Day** to all mothers of our parish! Whether you are the mother of a child, a grandmother, a godmother, a spiritual mother, know of our profound thankfulness and gratitude for your vocation of motherhood. Especially in these past few months, I know how many of our mothers have made so many additional sacrifices out of love for their families. Your unconditional and sacrificial love serves as a constant witness to each of us of the love of Jesus Christ.

As we rejoice today in the great and miraculous gift that is motherhood, we are able to glimpse how motherhood and the Mass are intricately linked in the great act of creation. Quoting Dr. P. Kreeft: *“There are two places that we are guaranteed a miracle: The altar and the womb.”* Love brings forth life. Given this beautiful connection, it is with great joy that we are able to announce on Mother’s Day our return to public Masses in the coming weeks.

Bishop Rhoades has asked all parishes in our diocese to resume our public Masses on the weekend of May 23rd/24th. The diocese has provided each parish with a variety of safety procedures to put into place over these next two weeks. That way, when we return for public Masses, every precaution will be in place to protect the health of our parish and community family. **Bishop has also extended the dispensation from Sunday Mass through August 15th.** Those who are ill, those who are susceptible to illness, and those who do not yet feel comfortable returning to large gatherings are encouraged to remain at home. For those who cannot yet join us in person, we will continue to broadcast our Masses online.

More information on the diocesan safety procedures are listed on the back of the bulletin. Please also see the enclosed card with Mass times to help us ensure that we can keep to proper social distancing standards. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ 1300 N. MAIN, BLUFFTON 46714 ~ (260) 824-1380

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*** SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY NUMBER: 260-296-0511 ***

DIRECTOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC: Sr. Rose Clare Ehrlich, CSA ~ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/DRE: Michelle Paxton

Bishop Rhoades has announced his plan for the SAFE return to public Masses in our diocese. We will be striving to implement all prudential safety practices to help ensure the safety of all who enter our Church for prayer. Here are the details and how we will be implementing them at St. Joseph:

BISHOP RHOADES' DIOCESAN DIRECTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- Public Masses will resume on the weekend of May 23rd/24th.
- All those attending Masses must keep to proper social distances.
- The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains dispensed until August 15th.
- Parishioners over the age of 65 and those with compromised immune systems are encouraged to remain at home until risks have lessened.
- Face Masks are to be worn when in Church buildings (*excluding those under the age of 2 and those for whom masks would create difficulties for breathing*).

ST. JOSEPH'S PLAN FOR RETURNING TO PUBLIC MASSES

- Masks are to be worn when in the Church building (*excluding those under the age of 2 and those for whom masks would create difficulties for breathing*)
 - The Church will have a **limited supply** of masks available for those who do not yet have their own (thanks to the generosity of our volunteers).
- Church doors will be propped open prior to and after Mass.
- Pews will be roped off to ensure proper social distancing when seated.
 - One family of the same household per section.
 - *What is proper social distancing?* According to the Indiana Health Protocols, it is keeping a distance of six feet between families of different households.
- Pews will be sanitized after each Mass.
 - *If you are willing to help sanitize the pews, please contact the Parish Office.*

LITURGICAL MEASURES AND CONSIDERATIONS SURROUNDING MASS

- Hymnals and Missalettes continue to be removed from the pews.
 - A single-use Missalette will be provided each weekend with the Mass readings.
- Choir and Congregational singing will be suspended for the foreseeable future.
- For the distribution of Holy Communion, instruction will be provided at Mass.
- An additional Sunday Mass time is being added to our parish schedule to help prevent overcrowding at Masses. See our new schedule of Mass times below.
 - Overflow seating will be available in the Parish Social Hall if needed.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE MAY 23RD/24TH

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Please contact the Parish Office with any questions (824-1380)