

PUBLIC MASSES RESUME MAY 23RD/24TH

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5 PM | Sunday - 7:30 AM, 10 AM, 12:30 PM

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday - 11:30 AM | Wednesday - 7 PM

Memorial Day Mass - Monday, May 25th, at 11:30 AM

My Dear St. Joseph Parish Family,

As nearly ten weeks have passed since we have had the chance to publicly gather for Mass, we are excited to begin welcoming you and your families back to Church next weekend (May 23rd/24th). As we are all aware, our experience at Church during this time of social distancing will be substantially different than what we are used to. I thank you ahead of time for your patience and for following all the guidelines given when we come to church for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and any other gathering.

We also understand that many parishioners will not yet be able to join us here at church for the foreseeable future. With this in mind, Bishop Rhoades has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until 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 be with us, we will continue to broadcast our Masses online so that, until we can gather physically together again, we can remain spiritually and virtually connected as a whole parish family.

Our guidelines for resuming public Masses, shared in last weekend's bulletin, are available for review on our parish website. When you arrive for Mass next weekend, please be mindful of proper social distances and following any posted instructions. We strive to help ensure that our church building remains a safe environment for prayer and worship of our Lord. As we move forward, we will continue to re-evaluate our precautionary guidelines in compliance with those from the State and our diocese.

One major change this coming weekend is the addition of one more Sunday Mass for the foreseeable future. As our 10 AM Sunday Mass is often our most attended Mass, we hope that the addition of the 12:30 PM Mass will help to prevent overcrowding at any single Mass. If that does occur, however, we do have plans in place to prevent overcrowding while ensuring that no one will be turned away from any Mass.

An additional precaution, requested by Bishop Rhoades, is that all those attending

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

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

Masses in our diocese wear face masks while attending Mass (**excluding infants, small children, and all those who would have trouble breathing if they were to wear a face mask**). While I know that there is much national discussion regarding face masks, this is a request from our Bishop. Bishop Rhoades, as our chief shepherd and spiritual father, believes that this is a necessary safety precaution as we return to Mass and, **out of respect for him**, I thank you for following this request. (*Through the generosity of several parishioners, we will have various face masks available in the narthex for those who do not have their own.*)

SUMMER UPDATES

Many have been asking about Dcn. Stephen Felicichia and how long he is with us. Dcn. Felicichia will remain in residence at St. Joseph's through his ordination and until he begins his first parish assignment in mid-June, which will be announced after his ordination. After he is ordained, he will offer his First Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish of St. Therese in Waynedale. Between ordination and beginning his first priestly assignment, then-Fr. Felicichia will be assisting at parishes as needed and, when able, knows that he is always welcome to offer Mass with us here at St. Joseph's.

Dcn. Felicichia is scheduled, God willing, to be ordained a priest of Jesus Christ for our diocese on Saturday, June 6th, at St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne. The Mass will be live-streamed so that all throughout the diocese can join in prayer for this joyous event. We will make this live-stream available on our social media and website. Please keep Dcn. Felicichia in your prayers as he nears priestly ordination, as well as the six young men who will be ordained transitional deacons for our diocese.

For my summer plans, I will not be returning to Washington, DC, this summer. Instead, I will be able to remain right here at St. Joseph's. My summer coursework at the Catholic University of America has been transitioned entirely to online classes for June and July. This does mean, however, that I will be taking a full schedule of classes this summer. To accommodate these classes so that I can remain at St. Joseph this the summer, we've had to make a few adjustments to our **weekday** parish Mass schedule.

For the foreseeable future, **we will be cancelling our daily Mass on Mondays.** (*We will still have a special Mass on Monday, May 25th, at 1:30 AM for Memorial Day.*) This will allow me the opportunity for a partial day-off each week and a chance to visit with my family in South Bend. Similar to the past two months, **our daily Mass times will remain at 11:30 AM every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.** We will resume our evening Mass on Wednesday at 7 PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume one-hour prior to our weekday Masses on Tuesdays (10:30-11:30 AM) and Wednesdays (6-7 PM). Confessions will resume Tuesdays after Mass (Noon), Wednesdays during Adoration (6-7 PM), and Saturdays prior to the Vigil Mass (4-4:45 PM). Thank you for your flexibility!

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David