



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

A ministry of the Order of the BVM of Mercy –Mercedarian Friars

May 28, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and peace in our Risen Lord!

It was just over two months ago that I wrote you as the coronavirus pandemic began to have an impact on our country and our local community. As you know the commonwealth and our city are now moving our local community into the “*yellow*” phase of reopening the community and attempting to resume normal operations with some restrictions. Archbishop Perez has announced that the parishes in the Archdiocese may begin offering public Mass again beginning on Saturday June 6th. This permission comes with some restrictions and so I would like to share these with you.

The first and most important concern, of all these restrictions, is for your protection and wellbeing. The last thing any of us wish to see is a strong resurgence of the virus that can have devastating results on our parish and community. With this in mind the Bishops of the United States have extend the dispensation for attending Mass on Sunday and Holy Days. If you are elderly, in poor health, or may be vulnerable because of medical conditions you should not attempt to go out or attend Mass. Again, this advice is for your protection. We will continue to live stream two Masses a week for those not able to physically come to church for Mass.

As we resume public Masses there are certain guidelines that we must follow. The following guidelines are those from the Archdiocese and for our own parish based on our building size and layout:

- All adults and children above the age of two must wear a face mask or covering in church.
- We must maintain social distancing in the building: pews will be designated for families or individuals with a limited number permitted in each pew.
- The only entrance into the church will be through the handicap door on the Lancaster Avenue side of the church. Hand sanitizer will be available at the door and a limited number of disposable masks. The main front doors will be for exiting only.
- The front entrance area, now sometimes used by parents with children, cannot be used.
- Social gathering on the steps or walkways around the church is not permitted until we are in the “*green*” phase.
- For the reception of the Holy Eucharist instructions will be explained at every Mass and all those coming to receive communion are asked to follow them.

We are permitted, during this phase, to have two hundred people attend Mass based on our seating capacity. I do not foresee a problem with this accept for the 11:30 a.m. Mass. For this reason I am adding an additional Mass on Sunday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. for the months of June and July. I would suggest that people, who normally might attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass, consider Saturday evening or this new Sunday afternoon Mass until we reach the green phase.

We will also follow the safety guidelines by having no books or missals available in the pews. We will have Mass programs available for each Mass and you are asked to take them home with you. Nothing should remain in the pews when you leave. Bulletins will be available only at the end of each Mass near the doors as you leave. After each Mass we will also continue to sanitize the pews and church area in preparation for the next Mass.

As many of you know that church building has remained opened daily for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as confessions daily. This will also continue during this time as follows:

- Masses: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.
 Saturday 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)
 Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 (Latin), 11:30 a.m., 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.
- Confessions: Monday to Friday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday and Sunday from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- Adoration: Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday from the end of 11:30 a.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m.

We look forward to everyone returning to join us for the celebration of Mass and I will continue to communicate any changes with you as they arise. Please continue to follow our parish website or Facebook page for updated information.

<http://ourladyourdes.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/OLLPhilly/>

With every best wish, I remain sincerely yours in n Christ.



Rev. Michael R. Rock, O. de M.
Pastor