

DIRECTIVES AROUND RE-OPENING ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH/PARISH

NOTE: This is one in a series of directives & restrictions that Fr. John will be forwarding.

At this time, many questions remain unanswered—the date when we will offer Mass with the faithful present, the limitations upon the number of people who may be present for Mass, how people will enter, be seated, and leave the Church while maintaining appropriate social distancing, etc. But our intent is to begin introducing changes and restrictions that are currently underway so that you are not only aware of the changes, but have time to prepare for these changes as well. We will continue to provide more information in the coming days in a format similar to this. We ask you in advance for your patience and commitment to following the procedures put in place. Our utmost concern is for the safety and well-being of our parishioners, priests and staff.

- ◆ With all precautions taken, there will still be a risk for anyone who attends a public gathering. Anyone who is vulnerable, anyone with health issues, anyone who is sick, and anyone who has any fears or concerns about getting sick by attending Mass are all encouraged to stay home in accordance with the recommendations of the CDC.
- ◆ The obligation to attend Sunday Mass will remain suspended for all Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester until further notice.
- ◆ Face coverings will be **required** before entering the Church and **must** be worn during the entire time that you are in Church.
- ◆ Pews will be cordoned off to assure six-foot spacing in all directions between household groups or individuals.
- ◆ All missalettes, hymnals, prayer cards and other paper resources are no longer available.
- ◆ Choirs will not be possible during this transitory period. There will be only 1 musician and 1 cantor at Mass. *Due to the research that shows singing expels significantly more aerosolized particles of virus than speaking, congregational singing is not feasible at this time.*
- ◆ Holy Water fonts will remain empty.
- ◆ The Crying Room is closed and the room will only be used for Confessions until further notice.
- ◆ The Baptismal font will remain empty. *Water is to be changed and blessed at each Baptism and the font will be drained immediately following the Baptism.*
- ◆ The Book of Intentions has been removed from Church until further notice. *Intentions requests may be e-mailed to the Parish Office (gstcharl@dor.org), placed in the hunger wells at church entrances, or leave a message on the Parish Office phone (663-3230).*

Updated: 5/28/2020