

May 28th, 2020
Memorial of Saint Paul VI, Pope

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Vital Parish,

I did not think that I would be writing you again so soon. I am sure that you have been listening and reading about the slow opening up of businesses, parks and churches. Last week we were able to have 25 people in the church, with the expectation that they would disinfect their area and would keep the social distancing. For the most part it is going well. We have been celebrating Mass from Tuesday to Friday at 11:30 am as we work on how the next phase will unfold.

Archbishop Gagnon, in consultation with provincial and medical officials and the Bishops of Manitoba, has sent out Updated Protocols for COVID-19. His Grace likened it to emerging from the darkness of the catacombs to coming into the light. So with this in mind I would like to share with you how these protocols will be unfolded into our church and liturgical activities.

Mass: We anticipate the regular schedule for weekend masses to begin on June 13th. It is important to understand that there are strict numbers of people that can be in the Church. This brings in the social/physical distancing protocols, inclusive of the priest-president. We must follow the approved capacity as given to us from the province. A proper count must be maintained to ensure approved gathering limits. We have decided that we would ask the parishioners to call or email the parish office to express their interest in attending one of the weekend Masses. We will need to know the exact number of people from your household asking for spots. We will call you back to reserve the places for you and/ or your family, with the date and time of the Mass you will attend, remembering always the limitations. Please do not be angry if we cannot accommodate you for the immediate weekend. We would like everyone to have a turn so we will schedule you in the near future. If you have a mask please feel free to wear it during the liturgy. Please ensure that you are sitting in the pews as they are laid out, with every second row blocked off.

You should NOT attend the Liturgy if you or a household member:

- have recently travelled outside Manitoba;
- are exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms;
- have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for the Coronavirus; or,
- have a pre-existing health condition or compromised immune system.

I would ask that people who are sick, aged or anxious to pray at home, and participate in the live stream Mass at home. Live streaming will be at 9:00 a.m. beginning June 7th and is accessible any time after. Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation, as we continue to work together to keep each other healthy and safe.

Sanitization: There will also be liquid hand sanitizing stations at the entrance to the door off the parking lot. There will also be stations throughout the area. The pews will be sanitized following Mass to be ready for the next mass. There will be scheduled people who will sanitize the pews.

Please leave the Church from the same door you came in. There can be no gatherings in the hallway or in the Church. If you choose to visit please move outside, respect social distancing, and say nice things about your priests.

Blessings,



Fr. Mark



Fr. Moïse