

To: All Parishioners of Most Holy Redeemer Parish
From: Father Chester H. Carina

Greetings! Hope this finds you well. We have received permission from our bishop (based on the governor's executive orders) to reopen the church for public Mass beginning the weekend of June 13/14. Our modified weekend schedule for possibly the next four to six weeks are:

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.

Sundays, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

There will be no 11:30 a.m. Mass for the time being due to insufficient numbers of volunteers to seat people and to allow sufficient time for sanitizing the church and hall after each Mass.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INCONVENIENCE!

Things to know when you return to church:

*** There is a sign up for the first weekend: June 13-14*

1. Doors will open one half hour before Mass-center doors only.
2. Social distancing guidelines require marking the pews so we know both where to sit and how many we can actually seat in the main body of the church and the parish hall. Between the church and the hall, seating will be very limited. Doors will be locked once capacity is reached. Violation of state mandate could result in our closure.

3. Due to social distancing, you will not be able to sit just anywhere. Ushers will direct you to designated seating (individual/pairs/families of 3 to 5 people).
4. Face masks are required to be worn indoors by everyone, only to be removed to receive Holy Communion. You will need to bring your own mask and also it would be a good idea to have a small bottle of hand sanitizer on your person. **NO ONE IS TO BE ALLOWED IN THE CHURCH OR HALL WITHOUT A FACE MASK BY STATE LAW. PLEASE COOPERATE.** Only the clergy are permitted to forego a face mask while on the altar, otherwise we must wear one too once we're off the altar.
5. Weekday Mass will be celebrated in the main church beginning Monday, June 15th at the usual time of 8:00 a.m. Again, social distancing and face masks are required.
6. The chapel/cry room will be closed to the public until further notice.
7. Communion ideally should be received in the hand. Reception on the tongue is too risky right now and requires the minister of communion to stop, sanitize their hands and then resume distributing communion. Please plan to receive communion in the hand.
8. Holy Communion will be administered at the end of the Mass and everyone is asked to immediately exit the church. This is to enable the church to be closed for sanitizing. **NO COMMUNION IN THE PARKING LOT!**
9. Collection baskets will be placed near the inside doors. It's "drop and go"-no baskets will be passed during Mass.
10. While the restrooms will be open, we ask they be limited to emergency use only, please.

11. No one is obligated to go to Mass on Sundays at the current time. Our bishop has temporarily dispensed with the Sunday obligation. No sin is incurred.

12. The diocese reminds us that everyone is responsible to make health decisions that are appropriate for themselves. While the parish is making every effort to minimize the transmission of disease, all risk cannot be eliminated. Therefore, if you have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, have a fever or a respiratory issue, **YOU SHOULD STAY HOME**. Anyone simply not feeling well should also stay home, according to the guidelines of both the State and the diocese.

13. Confessions will remain by appointment only until further notice. Simply call me (Father Carina) at the parish office (732-566-9334) and we will set up a mutually convenient time. **NO REGULAR SATURDAY CONFESSIONS JUST YET. SORRY!**

14. Mass will continue to be filmed each weekend and posted on our parish website (www.mhr-parish.org) for those unable to attend the public celebration of Mass.

None of us are thrilled about these measures. They are very restrictive, but they are put in place to hopefully create as safe an environment for public worship as is possible. Your cooperation is very much needed and appreciated. May we gather as the Body of Christ in love and good health.