



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

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My dear parishioners,

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus be with you. It is with a joyful heart that I announce to you the resumption of our weekend Masses as we begin phase two of our re-gathering protocols. I want to personally thank all of you for your prayers, patience and understanding.

As we re-gather to celebrate the sacred mysteries of our salvation I wish to remind you of a few protocols we need to follow for our common good. Kindly take note of the following:

- If you are vulnerable or are living with someone vulnerable to the coronavirus, know that the Sunday obligation for Mass continues to be suspended and God's grace and mercy are with you.
- Sunday Masses will continue to be streamed live at 9:00am.
- You are strongly encouraged to put on your facemask as you step out of your vehicle for Mass. **Please wear a mask throughout the celebration of the mass and until you exit the building.**
- The doors of the main entrance to the narthex and the doors leading to the church will be opened before and after Mass so we can avoid touching door handles as we enter and exit the church.
- Kindly sanitize your hands using the sanitizer stands in the narthex as you enter and exit the church.
- The holy water font will remain emptied for now. Holy water will be available in small bottles on a table in the gathering space. You may take one for your family.
- Every other pew in the church has been cordoned off. This is to help us observe social distancing at Mass. The parish hall will also be available for possible overflow. Seats will be arranged in the hall following the social distancing protocols and Mass will be streamed live in the hall. A minister of the Eucharist will bring communion to those in the hall.
- The processional song, Gospel acclamation, songs for the preparation of the gifts, Agnus Dei and recessional song will be sung by the musicians and cantors as we cannot use our song books as yet. The Kyrie, Gloria and Sanctus will be recited.
- The protocols for the reception of holy communion are as follows: **We are all strongly encouraged to receive communion with our hands.** Observe social distancing as you step out from your pew, keep your mask on as you respond Amen, step to the side, gently take off your mask and put the communion in your mouth, put your mask back on and walk to your pew. Depending on where you are seated in church, a minister may bring communion to you in the pew. This will be clarified at Mass.

- **Please do not gather in the narthex before or after mass.**

- For parents and guardians whose children are preparing for first holy communion and confirmation please know that we are putting plans in place for the reception of these Sacraments as we enter the third phase. You will receive information on dates very soon.

The season we find ourselves in calls for a lot of sacrifices. Let us bear these inconveniences in the spirit of charity as we offer everything to the Lord in prayer. I am excited to see you soon. Thanks a million for all the beautiful cards, prayers and words of encouragement. May God richly bless you.

*Fr. James Ahenkora,
Pastoral administrator*