

ST. JOSEPH RE-OPENING

When we were given permission to begin reopening our churches several weeks ago, we assembled a small committee to study the procedures and physical adjustments necessary to do so and to put together a plan specifically for St. Joseph. The committee is composed of persons whose work as part of our staff or lay ministry would be impacted by the new regulations. They have provided us with a comprehensive plan that will allow us to begin to safely reopen with a limited number of attendees at mass. We are very grateful for their efforts on behalf of our parish.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that beginning Monday, June 8th, we will begin celebrating, with limited attendees, a daily mass on Monday to Friday mornings at 8:30 AM at St. Joseph Church. We will be offering two Sunday masses with limited attendees beginning June 14th at 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

“Reservations” will be required for the Sunday masses. A reservation may only be obtained by calling the parish office (302-378-5800) the Monday through Thursday prior to the next Sunday mass between 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM only. You may request a reservation for a single person or for a “family unit” of multiple persons living together in a common residence. Reservations are not required for week day masses.

We have posted on line a short you tube video which explains the new procedures and restrictions for attending reopening masses at St. Joseph Church. We ask that you go to our website and hit the “click on” button for our live streamed masses which will bring you to our YouTube site; click on “videos”. There you will find the video titled: “Msgr. David Kelley: Reopening Procedures for Mass.” Please watch the video from beginning to end.

Bishop Malooly’s suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday mass is still in effect for all persons no matter their age. We will be continuing to live stream both our daily masses and Saturday evening mass as we have been since Holy Week. The Bishop particularly would ask those over 60 years old to carefully consider whether they should be coming back to church, especially those with underlying conditions. Several regulations that anyone planning to come to St. Joseph’s for mass at this time needs to consider are:

- All persons over two years must wear a mask from when they enter the church until they exit the church.
- All persons regardless of age must remain in their assigned seat during the mass; if a person leaves their seat during mass they will be directed to leave the building.
- The restrooms will be unavailable before, during, and after every mass due to difficulties meeting the sanitizing and social distancing requirements.
- The gathering space will be unavailable to all persons during the mass.
- You should arrive for mass 30 to 45 minutes before the scheduled starting time of mass.

All are expected to abide by the above regulations for the health and safety of others in attendance.

As we become more accustomed to our new procedures, we hope to be able to increase the number of persons we will be able to accommodate in the church for each of the Sunday masses.

We here at St. Joseph's are looking forward to having you with us in person as you are wanting to "come home" to your church!

Take care and stay healthy,

Msgr. David Kelley