

Good Afternoon,

Here is an update on where we are at St. Paul's and how things look for reopening.

We very much want to get back to public Mass - and to work from our offices here - but we want to do it safely. There are recommendations to follow from New York state, the CDC, the Monroe County Health Department, and the Diocese. Given the uncertainties of the current situation, the guidelines have been changing frequently and are sometimes conflicting. At this time, we are told every parish needs to arrange a plan for how to limit admittance to 10 people but may later have to impose further restrictions in the event of an outbreak in the local community. So, we have to be careful and follow all necessary diocesan policies and guidelines.

Based on the best information available, we are currently working on preparing for reopening, when permitted as well as when we feel we can do it safely. There are many details to consider and work out.

1. We have set chairs in the church spacing for physical distancing 6 feet apart from each other in all directions (in normal time our church seating capacity is permitted 488 people; after configuration, the new normal is 48 people).
2. Worship aids (we have removed from chairs and put away the hymnals; due to the research that shows singing expels significantly more aerosolized particles of virus than speaking, congregational singing is limited; choirs will not be possible during this transitory period).
3. We have ordered more cleaning and disinfection supplies.
4. We have put more hand sanitizer at the entrances of the church.
5. Holy Water in Baptismal font is emptied and will remain empty.

And there are many other things that are all being looked at.

When our parish does reopen to resume masses with the faithful present, please be advised that those attending mass **MUST** bring and wear their own face masks and sanitize their hands at the entrance of the church. We shall not pass collection baskets. People will put their money in cash or envelopes for offertory in the two collection boxes or the Donation slot at the wall. I encourage parishioners to give online and be generous as we continue to support St. Paul's parish.

More details will be announced via the web site, bulletin, Facebook, and twitter as well as via parish email. If you are able, please keep updated on parish current events through one of these media sites. If you do not have access to any of these, please let us know and we will add you to our phone list to be notified in that manner.

We will continue to stream Mass online after we reopen to assist those who remain at home. Please know that the obligation of a Catholic to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended until further notice. If you do not feel comfortable attending mass when we reopen or are in a high-risk category, please stay home and use live stream mass instead.

If you have any questions, please contact Jodie at jodie.hickey@dor.org or Robin at robin.martz@dor.org or call the office at 671-2100 and leave a message. We miss you all and hope you are healthy and safe.

Fr. Paul