

May 20, 2020

Dear St. Cecilia Parishioners:

Prayers for you and thoughts of you are on our minds and in our hearts daily. It is hoped that you are well and staying safe and healthy. Let us continue to pray to God and his angels and saints for His love and protection, especially to St. Cecilia, patroness of our parish.

This letter contains three parts explaining how plans are underway to re-open St. Cecilia Church for Sunday Masses beginning the weekend of May 30/31, Pentecost Sunday.

First, parishioners of the newly formed “planning team” met on Thurs. May 14, with me & Deacon Joe, to review a DECREE sent from Bishop Doherty to all parishes on May 8. This DECREE contains General Principles and General Guidelines that must be followed in order for St. Cecilia to re-open.

As decreed by our Bishop on March 17, all Catholics are dispensed from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until August 15. Consider staying home if you are experiencing any sickness, your health is in some way compromised, fearful of contracting COVID-19, and/or over the age of 65.

Second, listed below are a number of items that must be followed in order to re-open St. Cecilia, on a limited basis, during Phase B which is effective Sat. May 30. Directives for Phases C and D will be provided in on-going communications with you.

Those parishioners who have cleaned the Church on Tuesdays, on a regular basis, are asked to report to Church on Thursday, May 28 at 9:00 am for special training on how to clean after and between weekend Masses. If you feel uncomfortable in cleaning the Church during the pandemic, please call Fr. Faker or Deacon Joe. Other new interested volunteer cleaners are needed and encouraged to attend. New cleaning materials are being ordered that meet health guidelines for the cleaning of pews, kneelers, restroom, etc. Thus far nearly \$1000 has been budgeted and spent for these required supplies.

St. Cecilia will resume its four weekend Masses at 5:00 and 7:30 pm on Saturday and 8:30 and 11:00 am on Sunday.

- Only the front or east doors will be open for entering and exiting the Church. Volunteer GREETERS will be glad to open the doors for you in order to eliminate the touching of door handles.

- Holy water fonts will be CLOSED and empty of holy water.

- Doors will be unlocked 15 minutes before Mass begins. Doors will be locked once our limited capacity of 50 parishioners has been reached or within a minute after Mass begins.

- Parishioners are REQUIRED to bring and use their own face masks and to sit in pews that are OPEN. Please adhere to the rule of six feet apart, for individuals, in pews. Social gatherings before or after Mass are highly discouraged. Greeting others, through hand-shakes and hugging is also highly discouraged.

- Only face masks that meet health requirements are to be worn. Scarves, bandanas, masks with identifying advertisements or profane images are FORBIDDEN.

- Hand sanitizer and wipes are available on the table in the main vestibule.

- The Social Hall and its restrooms will be CLOSED. The Cry Room will be CLOSED.

- The restroom off the main vestibule will remain OPEN.

- Weekly collection envelopes are to be placed in the baskets on the table in the main vestibule. Ushers will not take up a collection of envelopes.

- The 5:00 pm Saturday Mass will be livestreamed on our Facebook page.

- The 5:00 pm Saturday Mass has been “designated specifically for the vulnerable to protect them from unnecessary interaction with the healthier, non-vulnerable population if they insist on coming to Mass despite the general dispensation.” (p. 5 of the May 8 DECREE)

Third, at Mass

- There will no music and singing as hymnals have been removed. You may bring your own missals and prayer books.

- There will be no handshake at the “sign of peace.”

- There are to be no altar servers.

- During Mass there will be no distribution of Holy Communion.

--After Mass has ended, Holy Communion will be distributed in the following manner,

--Father and Deacon Joe will be the only Holy Communion distributors.

--Parishioners are to move up the two side aisles toward the distributors keeping a distance of 6 ft. between those wishing to receive Holy Communion. Tape will mark spacing and directional arrows.

--Once you have received Holy Communion proceed toward the main/center aisle and move toward EXITING the Church. Do not return to your pew.

--Holy Communion will be received ONLY in the HAND.

--The Holy Communion cup with the Most Precious Blood has been suspended until further notice.

Further updates, especially regarding Phases C and D, will only be posted on Internet based media (e.g. Flocknote, Diocese/Parish websites, our online Bulletin, and Facebook). Hard copy Bulletins are always available for pick up outside the front/east doors of the Church. If you are not currently receiving Flocknote messages from the parish, please call the office at 987-3511 and let us know your e-mail address.

Lastly, thank you SO much for your continued prayerful, and especially your financial support. If possible, please keep us between you gas and electric bills. I continue to pray for your physical, financial, mental and spiritual, well-being, as we continue to be safely in the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dennis Faker