



The Shell

An e-letter for

Saint James the Greater Church,
3565 Hubble Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

May 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

Last Friday around 5:30 p.m. Archbishop Schnurr sent an email to all parishes telling us that public Masses would resume on May 25. It was accompanied by pages and pages of directions on how this is supposed to work. In the next few days our staff will study these and see how we implement them in our church building and how it will change our liturgy.

It is important that everyone know that following the guidelines will mean Mass will be different. We will not be going back to the way it used to be. Here are some of the regulations we need to explore:

- It is necessary to limit attendance.
- Limit the number of entrances so that there is clear control of how many can enter.
- Everyone must be 6 feet apart in all directions, unless it is a family unit that all live together.
- Everyone except the priest (so much for us!) is strongly encouraged to wear a mask.
- Eliminate social visiting before and after Mass and all congregating at the church doors.
- Do not pass the collection basket. When people arrive, have them drop their offering into a basket at the door.
- “Ensuring proper reverence, Mass should not be unnecessarily long; homilies should be brief.” (*Please, hold your applause for that last part.*)
- Even at funerals and weddings, the limitations about the number of participants and behaviors will still apply.
- All the other restrictions that were in place when we last gathered in March are still in place.

There are no permissions at this time for allowing any kind of social gathering like coffee/donuts after mass, funeral receptions, or any kind of parish event.

When we have processed the several pages of requirements and suggestions, we will post our implementations here and online. We may even do a snail mailing to everybody because not everyone gets the Shell. We want everyone to know what to anticipate and that everyone will be expected to follow them.

One guideline will get my full attention is the one that says “the health and safety of vulnerable priests should also be considered in this regard.” That may lead us to some actions unique to our parish.

For now:

The Catholic faithful who reside in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and all other Catholics in the archdiocese continue to be dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to stay home and join the Church by viewing live-streamed Masses.

Public worship may begin in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on Monday, May 25 with certain limitations and guidelines.

More to come as we figure this out.

Father Nolker

Notices

Deaths

Matthew Thiemann, husband of Laura, father of Cara, Nathan and Ava
Died on May 5, 2020

Paulette Rasche, wife of Paul and mother of Pete died on May 7, 2020.

Thomas Hoesl, husband of Marilyn.