



The Shell

An e-letter for

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

June 2, 2020

Dear Friends,

We have had a week of public Masses so far. We are still learning how this is going to work. Some parishes have put more protocols in place than we have; other have less. We have tried to make it easy and uncomplicated for all of you. How many people return to Mass will determine what changes we will make.

Thank you to everyone who did come to Mass this weekend. Thank you for following the protocols, adjusting to the different Communion procession and the pattern for exiting after Mass. It all went very smoothly because of your cooperation.

At the weekday morning Masses last week, we had about 30 people each morning, with about 50 on Friday. Before the pandemic we would have about 40 each day. For the three Sunday Masses we had 83 at the 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, and on Sunday there were 99 at the 8:00 a.m. and about 130 at the 10:00 a.m. (We didn't get an exact count at that Mass.). This means things worked out well for the spacing required. Our aim is to have no more than 150 people at any Mass.

Father Nolker

Notices

Confessions

Father continues to hear confessions at the regular time of 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Beginning June 6, he will hear confessions in the Hubble Rd. sacristy, next to the confessional. There will be 6 feet distancing for both face-to-face and anonymous confessions. Directions for waiting, etc. will be posted at the church doors.

We will not be using the confession room anytime soon. It is too small. This move will mean people can wait inside church and not gather in the entrances as they wait. They can also pray in church after going to confession, and many people do use the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to pray after confession.

Church Open

On Saturdays, the church will open in time for confessions at 12:30 p.m.

For morning Mass on weekdays, church will be open by 8:00 a.m. On Sunday, it will be open by 7:30 a.m.

We are trying to have church open for adoration at the tabernacle and private prayer from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Several times a week the church is being fully sanitized in the afternoons. That requires the church be closed during the procedure and remain closed for the rest of the afternoon.

Reminders from previous *Shells*:

- 1) The Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati **continue to be dispensed** from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass.
- 2) If someone wants to return to participation in Mass, they should seriously consider attending a weekday Mass rather than weekend. The congregation will probably be smaller.
- 3) That one **can** go to Mass doesn't mean one **should**.
- 4) 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 Mass on TV or live-streamed Masses.
- 5) If you have been in any type of large gathering where social distancing and face coverings were not practiced, please consider staying at home.
- 6) It is expected that everyone will follow the proper procedures when they come to Mass. The protocols were mailed to every parishioner so there is no excuse for not knowing what is expected of everyone.

Deaths

Jerry Schmitt, husband of Charlene died on May 19

Shirley Gaige, wife of Ed died on May 19

John Battersby, husband of the late Janice died on May 23