



Dear Friends,

I have greatly missed seeing you. We are preparing to **reopen with 8 am Mass on Tuesday, May 26 and with the regular three Mass schedule May 30-31.** Also regular office hours will resume from 8:30-5:00. In doing so, we should all strive to follow two virtues, prudence (act in a way that is safe for you and others) and charity (protecting the well-being of our neighbors). If you are sick or have a temperature of over 100.4, please do not attend Mass. What follows is how we intend to implement the guidelines provided by the diocese. This may look like a lot but it is doable and we will make adjustments as needed and as the situation changes.

1. You are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy. You must decide if this means attending Mass or watching Mass depending on what you feel is safe for yourself and family. Those who do not feel safe are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass but should watch Mass (the 4:00 Mass will be recorded and posted online) and make a spiritual communion. Enclosed is a page about the importance of communion. This was intended for the Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ on June 14 but is a good reflection as we resume public worship in keeping with Jesus' command. If you would like to have communion brought to your home door, please contact the office so we can work out a schedule.
2. Confessions will be at the regular time but in the cry room for physical distancing.
3. The church has been cleaned and sterilized, and contact surfaces will be sterilized after each Mass.
4. The diocese emphasizes that all **must** wear face masks for the safety of our brothers and sisters. These would only be lowered to consume the host. There will be masks made by parishioners for those who may forget theirs. Also there is hand sanitizer at each entrance and you are asked to sterilize your hands when entering and leaving the church.
5. There will be bulletins and song sheets at the entrances. Please do not leave them in the pews but take them with you or drop in the recycle containers at the doors. Since ministries will be on a voluntary basis, there will be baskets at the doors to drop off offerings after Mass. There are no missalettes but if you wish you can download and print the readings or view on your cell phone. Again all printed materials must be removed at the end of Mass.

(OVER)

1263 Shannon Avenue • Norton, OH 44203 • Email: ppeacechurch@neo.rr.com
www.princeofpeaceparish.org

6. It is important to maintain physical distancing. Every other pew has been blocked off. Those living in the same household are welcome to sit together. Individuals need to preserve appropriate distance from others. If needed there will be extra chairs in the vestibule that can be spread out at a safe distance. I have no idea what the level of attendance will be. We will make adjustments as this unfolds.

There are also some changes during Mass.

1. There is no entrance procession or servers so the priest is to come by the shortest way (which would be the west nave) from the sacristy to the altar while the entrance hymn is sung.
2. There is to be no offertory procession. The collection is not to be taken up as usual so there will be baskets by the doors.
3. The sign of peace will consist of a wave, however those living in the same household may have physical contact with each other.
4. Communion – ministers will be masked and sterilize hands before and after communion. You should maintain physical distancing while in line. After those in communion lines have received, the ministers will go around the church bringing communion to those unable to walk in the lines.

To maintain physical distancing, we will use a different flow for communion. The main nave should exit from the side where the windows are and proceed to the minister who will be by the corner of the sanctuary (where railing is) and return by the main aisle. The west nave would exit as usual but head to the back where the minister will be in the corner by the floor fan. Please take communion then step to the side, lower your mask and consume the host and then put your mask back in place.

Again this will be different and probably change over time. As past generations, with the help of God, we rise to the challenge of our day as we work through this together. Jesus said at his Ascension "I am with you always" including the current disturbance to our lives.

Thank you for your cooperation as we seek to protect our parish family. May God bless you and your families.

+Peace+

Fr. Bob