

# **Back To Normal Or As Close As We Can Be For Now**

## **Effective: Sunday, May 23, 2021**

### **First a message from the Archbishop:**

In light of the recent CDC development, there was discussion with the Priest's Council about the changes that were scheduled to take place on the 5-6 June 2021 weekend.

The Pastor is **free to move that change up**, even to right now, or to leave the schedule as is.

It's best to **leave the expiration date of the Sunday Mass obligation as is**, on 5-6 June 2021, as it has already been publicized.

As a reminder, **the latest CDC guideline related to COVID-19** is that people who are fully vaccinated may resume pre-pandemic activities. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the second of a two-dose vaccine, or 2 weeks after the one-dose vaccine. Local or State guidelines may still require compliance with some pandemic safety measures. As the pandemic isn't over yet, people who are not fully vaccinated are asked still to wear a mask, and practice social distancing.

### **Second a message from Fr. Paul:**

I have consulted the members of the Pastoral Councils from both parishes. The list that follows is our plan for the return to normalcy or as close as we can get at this time. Please read it and if you have any questions or comments. Those can directed to myself or to any member of the Pastoral Councils from either parish. Here are their names:

**Sacred Heart:** Ann Norton, Shielly Monck, Dale Hosch, Jim Loes, Ryan Sperflage, Diane Deppe-Haag, Denise Miossi, and Michael Wolken

**St. Luke:** Brad Huber, Chris Manternach, Mark Ries, Pat Boeding, Keith Kramer, Kate Elhts, Jeanette Murray, Keith Tackett, Dave Loeffelholz, and Kevin Weber

## **Beginning Sunday, May 23, 2021 at Sacred Heart and St. Luke:**

Facemasks are optional and we stress the importance of being respectful of those who do or do not choose to wear masks.

The ropes will be removed at both parishes with the possible exception of two small areas at Sacred Heart and one area at St. Luke. This strategy will be explained at the Masses on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> .

The hand sanitizing stations will remain at the entrances of the Church. There will not be Holy Water in the fonts for the foreseeable future.

We are not going to pass the collection baskets. They will remain at the entrances of the Church for the foreseeable future.

We will continue to disinfect surfaces just as a precaution.

We will not resume using Altar Servers for the foreseeable future. The Lectors do not need to sit in the Sanctuary and are not required to wear a mask. The Eucharistic Ministers do not need to sit in the Sanctuary but are required to wear a mask during the distribution of Holy Communion.

The Breaking Bread books will be returned to the pew racks. Please note that these are the books from 2020 and do not contain the current readings. We are putting them out so everyone has the opportunity to sing at Mass. The new books with the correct readings will be in the pews for the First Sunday of Advent on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will resume from 4-4:30pm on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> or by appointment. There will not be any further General Absolution Services since the dispensation has been lifted.

**Sacred Heart Only:** We will stop counting you as you enter the Church. Both the north and west entrances will be available for use at all of the Masses.

**Please note:** The final Mass on Facebook Live will be live streamed on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. With the lifting of the dispensation and the opening up of the Church there is no need to continue live streaming the Mass. Thank you to Deacon Ed & Connie Goldsmith and most of all their daughter, Abby Jaeger who convinced me to begin the live stream last year. They are a blessing to our parishes.

Please be aware that we may reintroduce the mitigation protocols if there is an extended surge of more than 14 days in Jones and/or Delaware Counties or at the direction of their respective Departments of County Health.