

Blessings to your family during these challenging times. We are excited to send you our guidelines for the reopening of church. A task force was assembled to develop guidelines for both health and liturgical “best practices.” Please remember that **the faithful have been dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass PUBLICLY.** Following the directives of Archbishop Schnurr and the Ohio Council of Catholic Bishops of Ohio, please note that the choices for fulfilling your **Sunday** obligation are:

1. Attend Mass **ANY DAY** of the week in person.
2. Attend Mass through online streaming **ANY DAY** of the week.

Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to join us for streamed Mass. These are found on our website: <https://www.olvisitation.org/> These Masses can be watched live or watched at a later time that is convenient for you.

In person worship at Mass will begin on **Monday, May 25.** Our parish will offer one public Mass per day. Here is the schedule:

- Memorial Day - 12:00 p.m.
- Monday - Friday 12:00 p.m. (Monday Masses will be child focused)
- Saturday - 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
- Eucharistic Adoration will be held each Thursday from 1-4 p.m. in the Welcome Center

The readings for individual days will be used. The doors to church will be unlocked 30 minutes prior to the Mass time. Please respect that each attendee has a different comfort level with COVID-19. We hope to review our guidelines after a few weeks and make improvements as needed.

Guidelines for the Resumption of Public Worship at Visitation

- We are limited to a maximum of approximately 250 people.
- Entry doors will be open for you to have a touch-free entry into church and the Nave. Because we need to count those in attendance, **ONLY** the big brown doors underneath the carport will be used for church entrance. All doors will be used for exiting.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter. Please use it.
- We are requiring everyone to wear a mask. This includes people of all ages. This is for the protection of everyone around you. **IF** you are unable to wear a mask, we will ask you to sit in the Welcome Center.
- The Nave (front facing pews) will be reserved for groups that live in the same household. The transepts (sides) will be reserved for individual worshipers. We will be using every other pew in all sections. The transepts will be marked for 6 foot distance.
- No physical contact at the Our Father or Sign of Peace.
- Eucharistic Ministers will come to you and walk in the empty pews to distribute. They will be masked and their hands sanitized prior to administering. Communion will take place only by the hands and it will be “dropped” into your hands. Holy Communion from the chalice will not be offered.
- Choirs will not be singing at Mass. We may use a musician or cantor at Mass, but not groups that sing together. Because singing spreads more droplets than coughing, we are asking those in attendance to refrain from singing.
- If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or Eucharistic Minister (regardless of being signed up prior) please sign up with Ken Meymann. You may contact Ken at 347-2219 or kmeymann@olvisitation.org. We only want those who feel safe and comfortable to volunteer.
- In order to have only one person using the ambo microphone, one reader will lector the first and second readings and the petitions.

- Collection baskets will not be passed during Mass. As you enter Church, there will be a collection basket in the Gathering Space. Please make use of that. We appreciate your gifts so much during this difficult time! IF interested you can sign up for online giving on our church website.
- Bulletins will be placed near doorways.
- The church will be sanitized between Masses.

Remember, the responsibility to keep others healthy is one that we all share. If you are sick or have been exposed to someone who is sick, please do not join us for Mass. Most importantly, always be kind and patient. We are in a confusing and sometimes overwhelming situation. Your parish is doing its absolute best to help you, protect you, and share our love for Christ with you. Please show your love of Christ by being Christ to others!

Please contact Ken Meymann with any questions. We are thankful to all of our parishioners at Our Lady of the Visitation.

Sincerely,

Fr. Mark & Public Worship Reopening Committee