

# Welcome Back!

**Our Faith Community opens this weekend, June 13 & 14 for 25% of the capacity of our churches!**

I am so happy to welcome our Faith Community family back to church. There are a few more rules since we last gathered together. I hope you'll be understanding as we implement social distancing and other safety practices required for us to hold public Masses again. Please review these guidelines. They contain many temporary policies that are meant to protect the safety of all parishioners and clergy.

- ✠ Anyone who is sick, has a cough, fever, or is experiencing shortness of breath **should not** come to church at this time. If you have had contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days or with anyone being investigated for it, you should not come to church.
- ✠ The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends vulnerable populations do not attend public gatherings. This includes those who are sick, are caring for someone who is sick or are over 65. If you do so, it is at your own risk. Bishop Matano has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.
- ✠ To lessen your exposure to crowds, consider attending one of our daily Masses, Monday through Thursday at 9:00 am at St. Mary's.
- ✠ Masses will be live streamed Monday through Thursday from St. Mary's at 9:00 am and Sunday at 8:30 am.
- ✠ The Diocese of Rochester requires the faithful to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth throughout the Mass. Please have it on when you exit your vehicle and keep it on throughout Mass.
- ✠ Hand Sanitizer will be placed at the entrance to the church, but we encourage you to carry a small personal container of hand sanitizer as well.
- ✠ A single entrance to each church is required due to the special seating process.  
Entrance to our churches is as follows:
  - St. Mary's – West side entrance of the church will be the only entrance. Exit through the Community Room doors.
  - St. Matthew – The main doors will be the only entrance and exit.

**Please socially distance as you wait for an usher to seat you.**

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- ✠ Ushers will seat parishioners beginning 20 minutes before Mass starting from front to back of church. You may not request seats. We know you may want to visit with others (It's been a while!), but please remain in your pew once you have been seated
- ✠ Six feet will be required between individuals or family groups and no physical contact is allowed between groups.
- ✠ Doors will be closed and no one will be seated once Mass starts.
- ✠ Offertory basket will be available at the entrance of church.
- ✠ Missals have been removed from the pews but we will supply copies of the readings and prayers which we ask you to take home to recycle. You are also most welcome to bring and use personal missals, books, or electronic means to follow the Order of the Mass and readings, but please use a silent setting on all electronic devices.
- ✠ Bulletins will be available on the table next to the exit.
- ✠ The reception of Communion will take place when the Mass is finished and after the Final Blessing has been given. At the appropriate time, the Communion lines will form and Father Laird along with Eucharistic Ministers will distribute Communion under one species (the Precious Blood will not be offered to the congregation). Father and the Eucharistic Ministers will be wearing masks and will have hand sanitizer available to them throughout the Communion distribution process. Ushers will direct the flow of the one-way communion procession. If you are next in line, please wait until the person ahead of you heads toward the door before approaching the priest. Receive the Eucharist, step to the side to remove your mask and consume the Blessed Sacrament. Replace your mask and exit the church (or you are welcome to return to your original seat for private prayer). Please be socially distanced when you leave the church. We cannot allow any congregating after Mass in the Church.

I look forward to having our congregation back at Mass. It's been quite lonely without you!

Devotedly yours,

Reverend William F. Laird  
Pastor Sts. Mary & Matthew Faith Community