



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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My dear people of St. John's,

We have been on a three month sabbatical. The circumstances of our lives have changed each day. This is challenging in many ways but has also taught us much. Hopefully, each of us has found a rhythm of prayer and acknowledgement of God's faithfulness in our lives.

My prayer has always been for and with you, whether in online liturgies, brief encounters or personal time. Our separation from each other was demanded by the science of a pandemic. I have tried to listen to the evidence and then work to provide safe contacts within the parish. I value the safety and well-being of each of you. Each of us has to live and love with the desire for the presence of God in minds, hearts and bodies, to guide and protect us.

We, the staff, leadership and pandemic teams, have been working to bring us back together. We have moved purposefully, seeking to respect the seriousness of the virus situation. Here is the re-entry schedule:

- **Sunday, June 14** - The Feast of Corpus Christi. The church will be open from 8:00 am-12 noon for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- **Tuesday & Wednesday, June 16-17** - Daily Mass at 8:15 am
- **Thursday, June 18** - Confession at 6:00 pm (in Adoration Chapel) and Daily Mass at **6:30 pm**
- **Friday, June 19** - Daily Mass at **10:00 am**. This will be our recording of the Sunday Mass.
- **Sunday, June 21** - Celebration of our Patronal Feast: The Birth of St. John the Baptist
9:00 am Outdoor Mass at Farnham Park (just north of the church building) Please bring your own chairs.
- **Saturday & Sunday, June 27-28** - Regular Mass schedule. Saturday, 4:30 pm Confession (in Adoration Chapel) and Mass at 5:15 pm. Mass on Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00 am.
- **MOVING FORWARD:** Weekday Masses will continue on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8:15a; Thursdays at **6:30p**; and Fridays at **10:00a** (for recording); with Confessions Thursdays at 6:00p and Saturdays at 4:30p

Notice that we are entering slowly so that we can work out the best way to worship together safely. The first Sunday is without words as we silently pray before the Blessed Sacrament, observing social distance. The second Sunday is outside where the fresh air will be our protection. Finally, we return to the full schedule on June 27-28. **In all of these gatherings, I ask you to observe recommended social distancing of 6 feet at all times, inside and outside, and to wear a mask.** The obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues to be dispensed and our Masses will still be available on our website. You may wish to participate in week day Mass in lieu of Sunday Mass for the time being and receive Eucharist. We ask that anyone vulnerable (65+ years of age, who have underlying health conditions, who display any symptoms, or those feeling unsure of public settings) to please stay at home and pray with us online.

Obviously, we will learn much in these early weeks and may have to change some of our procedures. However, I believe we will all learn a way to be safe and protective of each person who enters our church building. We will do our best to learn a new way of being together.

Peace and blessings to all,

Father John Kunz