



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church
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May 9, 2020

Dear Parishioners

On May 1, 2020 Bishop Guglielmone sent out a e-mail about the resumption of Masses in the diocese. In the e-mail he says "If adequate spacing, social distancing, and cleaning CANNOT be managed, and you cannot perform ALL of the requirements, then you cannot have more than 10 people per Mass, or you CANNOT reopen the parish at this time."

On Friday, May 8th, I met with some of our healthcare professionals and some of our parish leaders and it was determined that at this time we cannot meet the requirements and therefore cannot reopen. We are hoping to have everything in place so we could reopen on Pentecost weekend.

One of the restrictions that the Diocese is requiring for the resumption of Mass is the restriction of space. When we do open we will have to limit the number of people in the worship space to 25% of capacity while providing ample space for visitors and attendees to maintain at least six feet of separation at all times. This means we could have 19 - 38 people in the church. The number would depend on whether a single person or couple is in that space in the pew. Once the capacity is reached we will not be able to allow any more people to enter. The alternative we are looking at is having mass in the parish hall where we could have 75 people.

Another restriction was ensuring frequent cleaning and sanitizing. At this point this is our main obstacle. To ensure proper cleaning we will need two volunteers for both the church and/or hall after each service to clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces following CDC guidelines.

We do not have these volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please call or e-mail the parish office and John can explain what would need to be done. Many of our volunteers are in the high risk group and have said at this point they do not feel ready to come back. So we need volunteers who are not considered high risk to help.

During this time we will continue to have Mass online.

Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone is granting dispensation for Masses until further notice to those who are at high risk for adverse health complications from COVID-19, or do not feel comfortable attending Mass.

The one thing we can do both at home and in church is to pray. Let us continue to pray for all those effected by the coronavirus and for a vaccine.

Peace and all good

Fr Mike