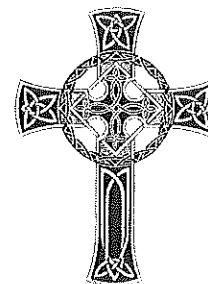


St. Patrick Parish

12 Main Street
Pelham, NH 03076
603-635-3525



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the back, is a letter from Bishop Libasci about reinstating the **Celebration of Mass With a Congregation. We will begin this weekend, June 6-7, at the usual Mass times** (Saturday, 4:00pm, Sunday 8:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm).

If any of the following apply to you, **please stay at home**:

A.) A person who has any of the following symptoms of COVID-19:

- i. Fever (feeling feverish or a documented temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher);
- ii. Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath (other than seasonal allergy symptoms);
- iii. Whole body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue;
- iv. Changes in the person's sense of taste or smell;

B.) A person who has been in close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days (Note: healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment can attend); or a person who has travelled in the past 14 days either:

- i. Internationally (outside the United States)
- ii. By cruise ship; or
- iii. Domestically (within the United States) outside of New Hampshire, Vermont, or Maine on public transportation (bus, train, plane, etc.)

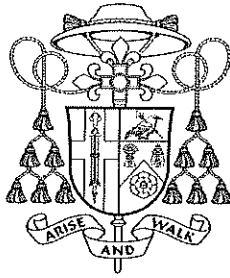
Because we are limited to 40% capacity, and family units must maintain six-foot social distancing from others, many pews will be taped off. If "your" pew is unavailable because of this, or it is already occupied, please be patient, understanding and flexible. In order to keep order, please enter only through the main entrance or through the ramp entrance. Please sanitize your hands when you enter the Church. Please also allow proper social distancing when exiting the Church.

The Bishop has asked that we wear **masks** while in the Church (with the exception of the presider, except when giving Communion), removing them only when we receive Communion. There will be no congregational singing for now. In order to help us sanitize the Church after each Mass, please leave your kneeler **down** when you leave, as a sign that that pew was used.

Amidst everything else, we want to remember the power and importance of the Mass. Our Lord gives us *Himself*. I pray that we can enter back into Mass with reverence and love for God and each other.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Von DeRosia



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

June 2, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you know and, in fact have experienced in some ways, we continue to navigate these unfamiliar waters that are called a pandemic. In purposeful and prudent movements forward, we have been meeting daily and for long periods during these many weeks preparing the way to bring the Lord's flock back into safe and green pastures. Now, based on public health guidance from federal, state and local resources, I announced on May 29, 2020 that the preparations we have been making have resulted in our beginning to resume the "Celebration of Mass With a Congregation" (*the correct phrase as printed in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal*). The information that follows implements advice and requirements from public health authorities and, most importantly respects what we require for the proper and dignified celebration of our Roman Catholic Holy Mass. In a spirit of the virtue of true charity, and in order to best protect the health and well-being of all of our brothers and sisters, the information that follows is to be utilized in all Diocese of Manchester locations.

Our coming together in church for Mass, baptisms, weddings, funerals and other liturgical worship as a community will undoubtedly seem a little different in the days ahead. In fact, a noticeable difference that is already quite striking is the deep reverence and attention of all as they are receiving Holy Communion! May THIS difference remain among us always!

I ask that you keep in mind, then, that the measures we are implementing at this time do not lessen or damage our liturgical celebrations. In fact, certain attention will remind us that this is GOD'S House. His House deserves the very best of attention to cleanliness, awareness and respect. Not only that, but for several weeks our priests have been engaged in a study of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal to reacquaint themselves with the actual rubrics and directives of the Universal and local Church in the United States. This has been a time of "active waiting" for the long desired "full, conscious and active participation" of which the Second Vatican Council spoke in the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*. May the fruit of all who have labored and all who have prayed for us and patiently remained faithful be crowned with God's grace and our gratitude.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester