



CHURCH OF SAINT THERESA

63 WINTER STREET, NORTH READING, MASSACHUSETTS 01864

5/22/2020

Peace be with you!

As you know, Governor Baker has allowed churches to reopen in a limited way starting this weekend. There are strict rules for reopening, and the Archdiocese also has a strict checklist before a church can reopen. **Here at Saint Theresa Parish, we will reopen in a restricted way next weekend for the Saturday, May 30th Pentecost Vigil Mass at 4:00 pm.** We will also hold the normal three Masses on Sunday morning. The Masses will continue to be livestreamed, and there is no moral obligation for anyone to come. In fact, those who are elderly or have health restrictions, especially lung-related illnesses are hereby encouraged not to come. Also, if you live with someone who is elderly or has illnesses, it is probably best that you stay home as well to not risk bringing any potential virus germs home with you. Obviously, if you feel sick in any way that day, please stay home. So, yes, we will be open next week, but take extreme caution before coming.

The details of exactly what to expect will come to you early next week, prior to our public Masses, but here is a preview. There will be a sign-up online and phone to make sure there is enough room for you. There will be signs and volunteers pointing to which doors to enter the church. You should have a mask on to enter unless you have a medical reason not to have one on. You should bring with you your own sanitizer, although the church will also have it available. You will be asked to sit only in designated seats that allow for social distancing. Holy Communion will be distributed in such a way that you will have a mask on and can only receive in your hand. Gloves should not be worn for receiving Holy Communion. Once you are away from the priest or Eucharistic Minister, you adjust the mask and self-communicate, and then put the mask back on. The priest or Eucharistic Minister will also have a mask on during Holy Communion. If hands touch, the priest or Eucharistic Minister will sanitize before giving Holy Communion to the next person. No congregational singing is allowed, and there will be no choir. There will be no sign of peace, passing of the basket, or presentation of the gifts. When you leave it will be in an orderly way led by our volunteers. This is a good sample of what to expect, but we will send further details next week.

To do this, we will need many volunteers. If you are able, please contact Mary Ann Thomas to let her know. Volunteers will greet people, direct people in and out of church and to Holy Communion. Either these same people or another group of volunteers will be needed to help sanitize the benches between Masses. At this point we are asking only people under 60 years

of age to volunteer. **If you can, we would very much appreciate you volunteering to help. Thank you.**

There is much to prepare before you come, and there will be some inconvenience during this time. Tomorrow (Saturday) we have arranged for a company to deep clean the church, so there will be no morning Mass or Adoration tomorrow. The company will be finished in time for us to livestream the Sunday Vigil Mass this week at the usual time (4:00 pm).

We are happy to report Fr. Tom Reilly is ready and prepared for his Virtual Healing Service this week. We hope you can join him on Tuesday, livestreamed on our website or on Facebook, beginning at 6:00pm with Adoration and the Rosary. The Holy Mass for Healing will be at 7:00 pm. We are sorry that the public will not be invited to join us in person, but the service he planned is designed for “healing from a distance.” Perhaps you have friends from afar that can join us. Please note, so we can prepare for the Healing Service, there will be no Adoration on Tuesday from 4-5pm.

The idea of having a Parish Virtual Trivia Night did not draw much interest so that will not be happening tonight.

When you come to Church, please notice that the statue of Saint Theresa in the front of the Church has been repaired, cleaned, and repainted. This was paid for by the event we held last year at the Horseshoe Grille run by our 75th Anniversary Committee. That event raised more than enough to redo the statue, so we have other long-term (post-COVID) plans for the remainder.

Please see the bulletin (linked on our website) for more information on all this and other things happening at our parish.

Stay safe, and let us pray for each other,
Bishop Mark, Fr. Reilly, and the staff