

June 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Petronille,

Welcome back!

Saint Petronille will be opening for Masses this weekend and we are truly looking forward to having you back!

Since there is limited seating, please sign-up on-line using our sign-up genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548aca623a7f58-stpetronille>. When you come, **please print out** your reservation or be ready to **show us your confirmation email on your phone** when you arrive. **MAKE SURE YOU ARRIVE 10 MINUTES EARLY.** Our wonderful greeters headed up by our fearless Christy Collie will be ready to welcome you and help direct you. We would ask that you follow the signage in order to respect one another and keep one another safe.

As of the writing of this letter on Friday afternoon, the Masses with the most available space are the 5 pm Masses on Saturday and Sunday as well as the 730 am Mass on Sunday.

Because of precautions, we have removed all bulletins and hymnals from the church and there are a number of changes to the liturgy. These directives and changes are fairly consistent across the Diocese and we are following Diocesan directives in these matters. **We have, however, provided an on-line order of service which you can use on your phone or print out and bring with you.** If you choose to bring it with you, we simply ask that you take it home with you.

Procedures for Mass at Saint Petronille

Just when life-long Catholics knew how to attend Mass, many have asked questions about procedures being used to maintain everyone's safety:

Entrance

Please enter through the PLC doors whether you are to Mass in the church or the PLC while maintaining social distance and wearing masks while in line and once you enter the building. Please begin seating yourself in the church beginning with the last pew in the Blessed Mother side aisle and moving to the front of that same aisle. When this side aisle is full, begin filling in from the rear of the church in each subsequent section.

The Church

Please notice that pews have been marked off restricting the pews in which you can sit and there is a mark clearly visible on the back of each pew. These marks indicate the location in which you should sit. Notice that family members who reside together may sit next to one another not observing social distancing; however, **all worshippers should avoid sitting on the end of the pew** in order to maintain social distance from those walking in the aisle.

The Parish Life Center

Please notice that the chairs are separated by six feet. Do not move chairs. If you are a parent with a small child, you may keep the child with you at your chair; however, older children should be seated in the distanced chairs.

Communion

Communion will be distributed both in the church and the PLC.

Church

Communion will be distributed by all participants forming a single file line in the main aisle while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. As you approach the altar, sanitize your hands using the sanitizer in the main aisle of the church. Communion will only be distributed in the hand and the host will be dropped in your hand. Notice the priest will wear a face shield. Those in the side aisle should form a single file line facing the rear of the church, walking behind the last pew of the main aisle and walking, single file, up the main aisle. Notice there is only one communion station.

PLC

Communion in the PLC will be distributed according to row. There will be only one communion minister who will distribute to each row in sequence, beginning with the row marked #1. All those in this row should walk toward the minister who will stand near the kitchen door, sanitize your hand as they approach the minister, receive communion in the hand and then return by walking down the aisle behind the rows of chairs in which they were seated. Please notice that they will need to walk in a complete circle the long way around their row of chairs and back to their original chair. Do not take the short cut back to your chair because you will run into the other people coming up in the line.

Exit

Church

After Mass, beginning with the last row and moving toward the first, please exit down the main aisle to the main doors of the church. You will not exit through the PLC doors but through the main doors of the church. The opposite direction from which you entered. Please remember to leave the kneeler in your pew down.

PLC

After Mass, beginning with the row closest to the door and ending with row #1, please exit the PLC the same way that you entered.

Please notice that, no matter how much we would like to greet you, the priest will not process into or out of the church and will not be able to greet people after Mass. I hope you understand.

God bless you!

Volunteers

The church and PLC are sanitized after each Mass by volunteers and all of our greeters and setup people are volunteers. We need your help. If you are not in the high-risk category, please consider volunteering to help by sending an email to: reopen@stpetchurch.org.

Faith Formation Board

We are in the midst of discerning new members for our Faith Formation Board which advises our Faith Formation staff regarding all matters “faith formation.” Please see the attached information and consider serving on our Faith Formation Board.

First Communion

This Sunday, June 14th at 2:00, Bishop Pates will be celebrating a special live-streamed Mass (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-VaQThwlyS>) for those preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. Bishop Pates is happy to offer this opportunity to gather the families of those awaiting First Communion for this special Mass on the Diocese of Joliet YouTube channel, and he will have a special message just for them. We appreciate all parents’ patience and their dedication to making sure their children celebrate this special milestone in their lives as Catholics. Saint Petronille will be sending out a letter to all families regarding details about our First Communion ceremony early next week.

May Almighty God bless you and keep you.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Milota