



Saint George Roman Catholic Church

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Heb. 13:8

May 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Bishop Persico has given pastors the permission to resume public Masses beginning Monday, June 1. This permission is conditional upon each parish's ability to implement very specific health and safety directives. Likewise, this is a "permission" not an "order." Thus, priests who feel uncomfortable with their own safety will not be exercising this permission. Some parishes may not be re-opening.

Bishop Persico is likewise continuing to suspend the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Attendance at Mass is completely optional. Individuals who are at-risk and individuals who care for at-risk family members are strongly encouraged to stay home.

In consultation with the pastoral ministry team, I have determined that Saint George Church is indeed capable of implementing the necessary health and safety directives. Thus, the public will be permitted to begin attending Mass at Saint George Church on Monday, June 1st. Our first weekend Masses will be on Saturday, June 6th and Sunday, June 7th. It is imperative that we are serious about observing these safety precautions.

Saint George Church will have Masses at our normal times. Monday through Friday Masses will be at 6:45am and 8:00am. Saturday morning Mass will be at 8:00am. Weekend Masses will be on Saturday at 4:30pm and Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am.

The following safety measures will be observed

1. All are required to wear masks.
2. The doors of the church will be propped open.
3. Social distancing is to be observed at all times, with the exception of those who live in the same household. In the unlikely event that the church reaches its capacity, with no socially distant space available, individuals will need to return for another Mass time.
4. Seating will be limited to every third pew; ie: two taped-off pews between every open pew.
5. Hand sanitizer will be available at the doors of the church. Individuals are strongly recommended to bring their own bottle of hand sanitizer.
6. Ushers will not use the baskets to collect envelopes. Instead, individuals will put their envelopes in a secured box with a slot on the Georgian Way side of the church. Alternatively, parishioners may mail-in their envelopes or sign up for Electronic Giving. Please refer to our website for giving electronic or online options at www.stgeorgeerie.org/giving. You can also call the office to speak with Krista Jeffreys about options.
7. Individuals will not gather to greet one another before or after Mass, nor will there be an opening or closing procession.
8. Liturgies will be very simple, with no altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors or ushers. A musician and a cantor will be present and stationed away from parishioners.
9. Pews, door handles, door plates, and other common surfaces will be wiped down between Masses.
10. The Mothers Chapel will remain closed during the week and for weekend Masses.

Holy Communion

1. Only priests and deacons will distribute communion.
 2. The priests and deacons will wear masks as they distribute communion.
 3. The priests and deacons will sanitize their hands before they begin the distribution of communion.
 4. There will be a table next to each priest or deacon with hand sanitizer. If a priest or deacon accidentally touches a person while distributing communion, he will stop to sanitize his hands before resuming.
1. Individuals are very strongly encouraged to receive communion in the hand, though all still have the right to receive on the tongue.
 2. Communion lines will be single-file, one section at a time with 6 feet between individuals.
 3. Individuals will keep their mask on while they are in the communion line. Once the Sacred Host has been placed in their hand, they will step off to the side to remove their mask and receive communion. They will then put their mask back on before returning to their pew.

For weekday Masses: those attending the 6:45am Mass are asked to sit on the Peach Street side of the Church; those attending the 8:00am Mass are asked to sit on the Georgian Way side of the Church. This will allow us to limit the number of surfaces that need cleaned during the week.

If an individual has a very strong desire to attend Mass, but is hesitant about the crowds, they are encouraged to stay home. Alternatively, they may feel comfortable attending a weekday Mass where there will not be a large number of people.

We are grateful to be able to resume public Masses, but we must remember that if there is another spike in coronavirus cases, public Masses will again be suspended.

Now that we are returning to public Masses, we are modifying our live-stream schedule. We will now be live-streaming the 9:30am Sunday Mass on our parish Youtube channel, not the 4:30pm Saturday Mass. Likewise, we will no longer be broadcasting Mass on 35.3 ENN+. Those who do not have access to Youtube are encouraged to watch Mass on EWTN at 8:00am or 12:00pm on Sundays.

Saturday Confessions are being offered after the 8:00am Mass and from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Confessions are being heard in the Mother's Chapel and on the Peach Street side of the Church; all doors are being propped open; the priest sits more than 6 feet away; the lines for confessions are marked so that those waiting will remain 6 feet away from one another.

As always the weekly bulletin is available on our website. We are still posting helpful information in the bulletin including weekly mass intentions, intercessory prayers, scripture readings and financial updates.

God Bless,

Father Brian