



The Little Flower Weekly

The Official St. Therese Church Newsletter for the 2020 Pandemic



"THE UPPER ROOM" ~ The original is acrylic on canvas, By Fr. Philip Sullivan, O.C.D.

**This Sunday, May 31st,
we will celebrate the
Feast of Pentecost,
The Birthday of
the Church**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:19-23).



Daily Live Streamed Mass Schedule

Sundays: 11:00 a.m. from the church; **Monday through Saturday:** Noon from the Adoration Chapel

The Masses are **live** on our **Facebook page** (see link at the bottom of the e-Blast you first opened) at the times posted above, but can also be viewed there shortly afterwards at any time. Also, the Masses can now be viewed on our **YouTube channel** within a few hours after the Mass has aired. The link is also on the E-blast cover next to the Facebook logo.



May 29, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

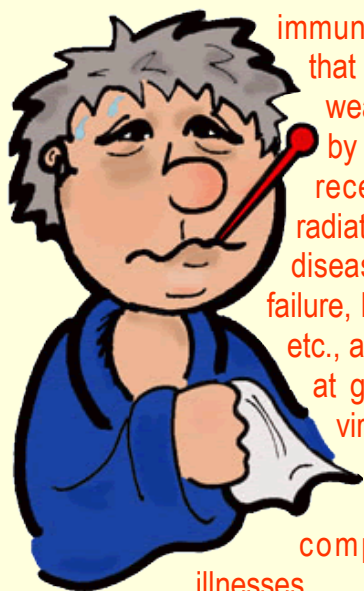
YES, we are preparing to reopen the church.

Part of this preparation included sending a proposal to Bishop David O'Connell, our regional bishop, detailing how we plan to put the Archbishop's **five pages of directives** "to work".

This proposal was just approved this afternoon. Our plan at this time is to celebrate the first reopening Masses on the Feast of the Holy Trinity, Sunday, June 7, 2020. Please keep in mind, however, that this is **not** going to be a "back-to-normal" situation. In fact, it will be **FAR** from normal. As of now, Fr. Philip has opted not to use any sort of reservation system. He has great trust in the Holy Spirit to make everything work out. Here are some things you should know:

THE DISPENSATION IS STILL IN EFFECT: The "Dispensation From Attending Mass," granted by Archbishop Gomez on March 25, 2020, will continue to be in effect until further notice. This means you are not obligated to physically attend Mass if...

- You don't feel safe attending **FOR ANY REASON**, including if you go to the church to attend and find that it has already reached maximum capacity.
- You are 65 years of age or older.
- You have an autoimmune condition or you are



immune-compromised (meaning that your immune system is weakened, either by a disease, by a medication, or because of receiving chemotherapy or radiation) **OR** have a chronic disease like diabetes, kidney failure, liver cirrhosis, heart disease, etc., all conditions which make you at greater risk of falling ill from viruses and bacteria, as well as at greater risk of developing serious complications from those illnesses.

NOTE: If you will not be attending Mass for any of the reasons just listed, Fr. Philip reminds you to please continue to "keep holy the Sabbath," by viewing a live streamed Sunday Mass, etc.).

MASS FOR THE VULNERABLE: Once we know what we are doing, we have plans for a future **separate Mass just for those who are elderly and/or compromised in some way**. Until then, please hang tight!

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES: For those staying home for any of the above reasons, we will **continue to live stream the Masses** on Facebook (posted later each day on our YouTube channel).

ONE ENTRANCE: As we are required to have volunteers monitoring the entrances before the Masses, only the **FRONT DOORS** will be opened to enter the church for Mass. All the other doors will be marked, **"EXIT ONLY"**.

FOLLOWING PROTOCOL: To enter the church, all visitors must:

- Wash their hands at the hand-washing stations and use the provided hand sanitizer.
- Wear a mask
- Maintain "social distance".



Once in the church, you will be required to:

- Sit in the area assigned to you and don't wander around the church.
- Refrain from shaking anyone's hand or embracing anyone.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE: Both outside and inside the church you are asked to keep a safe distance of six feet between you (and your family) and other people. After Mass, please go directly home; do not linger around.



HMMMM...IS SOMETHING MISSING?

When you finally enter the church, you will notice that there are things missing that would normally be there. The Archdiocesan directives require all churches to:

- Take the **missalettes** and **hymnals** out of the pews,
- Remove the ***candles** from the racks, and
- Empty the **holy water** from the fonts.

***Note:** Five-day devotional candles can still be purchased for \$5 each by arranging to pick them up from in front of the Parish Office.

EVERY OTHER ONE: You will also notice that your favorite pew might not be available. We were required to block off every other pew to allow for greater distance between worshipers. We have also been told to rope off any statues that are within reach to prevent them from being touched.



SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE A SIGN: You will see notices placed around the church and in the vestibule reminding everyone about following safe protocol and about the dispensation, etc. Again, these are required.

I'll help!

I can be there!



THE CHURCH CANNOT OPEN WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

NO, NOT HIS! NO, NOT HERS!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The **MOST IMPORTANT** of all the required directives is to have the assistance of volunteers. **Ideally, we need TWO VOLUNTEERS FOR EACH MASS.** Among other things, they will be needed to:

- Greet worshipers and make sure that each person follows all the protocols listed on the previous page.
- **Count the number of visitors** (allowing 100 maximum).
- Maintain the established safety precautions.
- When the maximum number of visitors is reached, place the provided sign on the door that says, "Maximum Capacity Has Been Reached," and then lock the doors.
- After each Mass, disinfect and clean the pews, the communion rail, the hand-sanitizing stations, and any other points of contact.

NOTE: We plan to have hand-washing stations outside the doors as well as hand-sanitizing stations in the vestibule.

PLEASE READ THIS! Even if you have NEVER volunteered at the church before; in fact, even if you have NEVER volunteered ANYWHERE, N O W is the time to do so! If you **REALLY WANT St. Therese Church to open**, then you need to sign up to volunteer! Don't think "someone else will do it..." YOU ARE "SOMEONE ELSE"! The directive say we **CANNOT OPEN THE CHURCH** without volunteers at the doors performing the duties above. Please email either denisekay@hotmail.com or Fr. Philip at philolupe@yahoo.com. **THANK YOU** for caring!

Eucharistic Adoration

Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you—for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart... Don't listen to the demon, laugh at him, and go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love.

~St. Therese of Lisieux

GOOD
NEWS,
ADORERS!

We have been told we cannot open our Adoration Chapel at the present time, due to there not being enough space to guarantee social distancing.

HOWEVER, to compensate for this, we will be offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the main body of the Church as follows:
(see information to the right)

Every Monday through Friday
from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

and

Every Saturday
from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(Earlier to allow time to prepare for the Saturday evening Mass.)