

# St. Joseph Parish Reopening Next Steps

## Effective March 1, 2021

Just a little update on some things while we move into making some changes and keeping some of the same things, as we continue in these days of COVID and its ongoing effects on everything. St. Joseph Church continues to closely monitor the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and local health department guidelines regarding COVID-19. After a meeting with Father McCabe, Father Johnson, Parish Council members and several medical experts, St. Joseph Parish is sharing the following information with you to help ease the transition to reopening. The safety of our parishioners and priests has remained the top priority of our parish leadership throughout this difficult time.

### Things that will stay the same:

- If you have any symptoms of COVID, PLEASE stay at home.
- Practice social distancing of at least six-feet and wear masks when this distance cannot be maintained.
- Pews and surfaces cleaned regularly.
- Worship programs in place of hymnals.
- Contribution envelopes placed in the baskets at the exits, mailed to parish office, or submitted electronically through on-line giving.
- Mass live-streamed at 9:00 am and available for later viewing.
- Resurrection Hall will be open for overflow seating at all Masses.
- Monday morning Communion at 7:30 am in Resurrection Hall.

### Things that will change:

#### Miscellaneous

- Confessions will resume in confessionals – times are listed in the bulletin and on the website.
- Holy Water in the fonts.
- Two to three Altar Servers will resume their duties with specific instructions.
- Congregational singing will be restarted and encouraged.
- Seating capacity will be increased.
  - Ribbons will be removed from the middle sections and remain in every other pew in the outside sections.
  - As a reminder, due to fire code regulations, please do not stand in the Narthex during Mass.

#### Holy Communion

- If you choose to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, use the center aisle only and follow the usher at the end of the line.
- Priests will be distributing communion on the tongue.
- Acolytes will not distribute communion on the tongue.

#### Ministries

- Some Ministries have started having meetings.
- Stewardship Committee will be reaching out to all ministry leaders to discuss pace of returning and scheduling St. Joseph meeting rooms as we look forward to welcoming back ministries.

The last words any of us hear at Mass are ***“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!”*** Those words still hold for all of us. Thank you for being with us in these times we are in and thank you for your patience, understanding and prayers.

**Father Michael McCabe**  
**Father Robert Johnson**  
**Parish Council Members**