

## COVID UPDATE

As of now, the Diocese has allowed us to return to normal activities in the parishes, as long as we practice proper social distancing and follow the local health guidelines. As of now, Saint Mary's is operating under the following restrictions/relaxations:

Masses are being held at their regularly scheduled times. We are still operating at half capacity, with half of the pews taped off. We ask that within the pews, people follow the proper social distancing guideline of keeping six feet away from unrelated family members.

We are still distributing Holy Communion with only ONE minister (usually the presiding priest), who sanitizes his hands thoroughly before offering communion and who is to wear a mask while doing so. We ask that people come forward when the priest gets to the altar rail in front of THEIR SECTION, and maintain distancing between themselves and the people ahead of them.

Confessions are being held outside the rectory window at their usual times. We will inform people when it comes to be time to move them indoors, probably in the basement.

The basement is accessible now during Mass for those who need to use the restrooms. Keep in mind that while we are able to sanitize the church between Masses, there is virtually no way for us to guarantee that the restrooms have been sanitized for COVID throughout the day.

The church is being kept locked, mostly for security purposes; the door facing K Street furthest east is open daily from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for daily Mass, and again from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Any who would like to pay a visit to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament may do so between 9:30 am and 7:30 pm; keys are available (go to the rectory) to be let in, and we hope to have a keypad on one of the doors soon.

Blessings in Christ,

Fr. Douglas Dietrich