

# SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

## St. Joseph Back to Church Letter

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you have probably heard by now, we are ready to open up for public Masses once again as per the civil law which permits a 25% capacity of each building. That being said, there are several provisions from the civil authorities as well as the bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph that will change the nature of our celebrations. I ask for your patience with me on these changes and with the Mass schedule; I realize that it will not please everyone, but I am trying to make provisions for people to attend Mass once a week. Bishop Johnston has dispensed all of the faithful for the Sunday Mass obligation until further notice and encouraged the elderly and/or those with health concerns/risks to stay home. If you wish to attend Mass, I ask you to please read the following amendments to our Mass schedule. **Please read the following carefully to eliminate unnecessary phone calls and emails regarding the schedule.**

### General:

All Masses will have no server, no lectors, no offertory procession, and no collection and will be akin to a daily Mass. This will make the ability to offer more Masses possible for me in a timely manner. Parishioners are to leave their offertory gift at the back of the church in a basket. In addition, no bulletins will be made available as per diocesan request. **All of the faithful have been asked to wear a mask upon entering the church building.** All must keep a 6ft social distance between one another; please sit only where indicated. Families may sit together in one place. When Mass is over, because of our lack of staff, I am asking the families to wipe down the individual pews where they sat with sanitary wipes or chemical provided (hopefully) by our respective parishes. Directions will be given for the reception of Holy Communion at Mass.

**St. Joseph—Easton PLEASE NOTE THE MASS TIME CHANGES** (current capacity—36 people)

**7:45 AM Sunday**

**8:30 AM Sunday**

**St. Ann—Plattsburg** (current capacity: 40 people)

**4:00pm Vigil Mass**

**5:15pm Vigil Mass**

**10:00am Sunday morning**

In addition, I have changed the daily Mass schedule temporarily to allow for people who are unable to attend Sunday Mass. All weekday Masses will be offered at St. Ann in Plattsburg.

### Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday 7:15 am

Wednesday 7:15 am, Low Mass at 6:00pm

Thursday 7:15 am

Friday 7:15 am

Again, I am hoping the Mass time change provides an opportunity for those who cannot make Sunday Mass to come and worship once a week until we are able to get back to the normal schedule. I have designed this schedule so that if you cannot get to a Sunday Mass because of the capacity issue, early morning Masses are offered before work.

It is my hope that we can return to normality soon. Any other weekly adjustments to the schedule will be posted on the parish website. **Please check the website frequently to see any changes as this will most likely be the last paper communication.**

I thank you beforehand for your continued financial support of our parish—you have been a very generous people! I am very proud of all of you for your love of our parish. Please communicate with one another on Mass attendance especially if your party is large. I realize that some will be inconvenienced by the amount of people we can lawfully have in our church—if you cannot come for the first Mass on a given Sunday, I hope you will find ample opportunity in the additional times I have offered. Thank you for your continued support in prayer and for checking in. May God bless you!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Eric A. Schneider, Administrator