

Message from the Pastor to the Faithful of St. Mary Parish Family May 17, 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Mary Parish Family,

Greetings! I'm confident that you are all staying safe and well. But I'm also very aware of your mental and spiritual agonies during this time.

The Diocese has put forward a number of suggestions regarding the resumption of public Masses when the government finally allows us. Given this, I wanted to get your responses to a few important subjects.

Cleaning

When Masses resume, we will be required to clean and disinfect the areas used after each Mass and this will take time to complete. That means we will need to change the time of some Masses to provide enough time in between to complete the cleaning.

Sunday Mass Schedule Revision

Because of the need to clean between Masses, I am offering two possible new Sunday Mass schedules:

Proposed Schedule A: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

By moving the first Sunday Mass an hour earlier to 7:00 a.m., it would give us time to clean before the second Mass begins (note that the second Mass would also change to 9:00 a.m.). What I need to know is how many of you would come for a 7:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Proposed Schedule B: 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

This option provides the time for the required cleaning between Masses, but it would mean one less Mass on Sundays.

Possible Weekday Evening Mass

The Diocese has suggested having one more Mass on the weekdays, possibly in the evening Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m. This may be considered as a substitute for Weekend Mass during this difficult time. The aim here is to reduce the number of people attending weekend Masses in order to keep social distancing. I would like to hear how many of you would attend a Weekday Mass in the evening at 7:00 p.m.

Facilities for Mass besides the church building

The Diocese has not ruled out the use of facilities other than the church building for the celebration of Holy Mass. So, consideration is being given to the use of Giovanni Hall for Mass, which would allow for increased ventilation and will be easier to clean. An additional reason that the Hall is being considered for Mass is that the frequent use of disinfectant on the pews might remove the new finish that was applied at the end of last year.

Volunteers needed

For all the requirements and schedules mentioned, we will need many volunteers to make all of these things happen, including people to help run the church projector and/or help with the live-stream of the Mass. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, volunteers at this time must be healthy and between the ages of 18-64. If you would like to volunteer but do not meet these requirements, please reach out and we will notify you once these restrictions are lifted for current volunteer opportunities. Thank you in advance for your consideration and co-operation.

I have not yet made a decision on any of the schedule options. So, I am requesting your thoughts on these so that I can make an informed decision that considers the need for the time to clean between Masses.

Please email me at frantony@stmarysacto.org or call the Rectory at 916.452.0296 with your thoughts, or if you would like to volunteer to help clean after the masses.

Your Pastor,

Fr. Antony Vadakara, CMI