



Blessed Savior Catholic Church
8607 W. Villard Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53225
414-464-5033

May 25, 2020

My dear Parishioners,

I hope you are doing well.

You must have heard of the State Supreme Court ruling overturning Governor Evers' Covid-19 Emergency Order. The ruling does not mean an end to the pandemic nor an end to the crisis orchestrated by the pandemic. There should be no mad rush to get back to normal since the risk of catching the virus remains.

In my last communication, I informed you of the Archdiocesan plan for a gradual re-opening on Pentecost Sunday. We are making preparation to ensure everyone's safety. We know how much we miss the celebration of Mass and the other sacraments. However, we cannot afford to be reckless given the seriousness of this virus.

The Archdiocese has put out "The Catholic Comeback Matrix" which comprises three phases in the process of getting back to normal. The current "Safer at Home" phase will be in place until Tuesday, May 26, when we enter phase one of the matrix. Phase one will remain in place until Archbishop ListECKI determines that it is time to enter phase two. Phase three will be when most things return to normal.

In phase one, the celebration of Sunday Mass is limited to 25% of Church capacity. For our parish with 400 seating capacity, that will mean attendance of about 100 people. This is not too far from our average attendance on some weekends. I considered adding another Mass on Sunday, but will hold off to see what our comeback Masses this weekend look like.

Those who are sick and those 65 years and older with serious health concerns are strongly encouraged to stay home. As part of phase one, the Archbishop has extended dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass through July 5th. Hence, those who do not feel ready yet to attend Mass will not be incurring sin on that account.

Everyone coming to Mass is encouraged to wear a facemask. The Church doors will be propped to avoid people touching the handles. The pews will be sanitized before each Mass. Only the priests will process in and out. The collection basket will not be passed down as we normally do. We will use a long handle basket for your contributions. There will be no physical contact during the sign of peace. Only the priests will distribute communion and in the form of bread (no wine). The Church teaches that the bread and the wine each contain the fullness of the sacrament. People will only receive Communion on the hand (not on the tongue). It was also determined at the Archdiocesan Council of Priests that singing should be discouraged except

for the cantor. Singing with a mask on will not yield the best result. Paper bulletin will not be available, but the bulletin will be available in electronic form on our parish website.

In this phase one, the celebration of funerals, weddings, private baptisms, Eucharistic adorations are still limited to 10 people in attendance. The parish office will remain closed to the public. All parish meetings will be by Zoom or phone (no physical meetings). First Communion will not be celebrated until after June 15th and will be in the context of Mass with 25% of capacity (same as phase two). There will be no daily Masses. There will be no Communion to the homebound except for the actively dying (Viaticum). Anointing of the sick will only be for those who are actively dying. Praying of rosary and communal prayer in Church is not allowed.

In phase two, the limits for funerals, weddings and private baptisms will be extended to fewer than 50 people but still within 25% Church capacity. Sunday Masses will still be at 25% capacity and Morning Masses will be permitted with same limitation. Adult confirmations could be celebrated with the Archbishop's delegation. Communion to the sick will be permitted but only by properly trained ministers. Parish office will be open with social distancing protocols observed. Paper bulletins could be handed out by ushers wearing masks and gloves. There will be no public celebration of anointing except those who request them at home. Praying of rosary and communal prayer in Church will be allowed with less than 50 people in attendance with social distancing. Physical parish meetings will be allowed with social distancing protocols. Distribution of Holy Water is not permitted in both phases one and two. Private confessions are permitted in both phases with social distancing.


Phase three will have no attendance restrictions and no dispensation from attending Mass. However, we will still need to take precautions with anointing of the sick and Communion to the homebound and those in nursing homes.

In the upcoming days you will be receiving a call from me or one of our volunteers from the pastoral council, leadership team and talk-about group, checking on you and inviting you to our Comeback Mass on Pentecost. It is not intended as an opportunity to whine and complain.

One of our parishioners recently gave a generous donation of \$2,400 to be used by parishioners and others deeply impacted by the loss of employment or in need. Please, join me in offering prayers of deep gratitude for this parishioner.

I continue to encourage your strong financial support for the parish. We need it now more than ever to keep our parish alive. If you have not been supporting the parish financially, please, prayerfully consider doing so now. If you are already contributing, I cannot thank you enough. Keep it coming. Mail in your envelopes or bring them to Mass. Those using Faith Direct have been awesome. I pray that God will reward all parish supporters for your contributions.

Continuing to stay well and safe! Looking forward to seeing you on Pentecost weekend.



Rev. Romanus N. Nwaru
Pastor