



ST. ROSE OF LIMA
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

46 Church Hill Road
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Strosechurch.com
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June 3, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The opening of the church for public worship will take place on the weekend of June 13/14. This has many challenges associated with it in light of the continuing concerns regarding the Coronavirus pandemic: limitation of participants (100 including clergy and lay ministers), the necessary sanitizing that must be done after each service, the reduction of the Mass schedule, the use of restrooms and so on. This will require a great deal of patience and cooperation on the part of all of us. It is our obligation for the well-being of one another to observe all the regulations prescribed by our federal, state and diocesan officials. I know many have expressed the opinion that we are “overdoing it” or that as a church we should make demands that set us apart from other institutions, but this is a case where “better safe than sorry” is operational. We are, in fact, all in this together!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE DISPENSATION OBLIGATING CATHOLICS TO ATTEND WEEKEND MASS IS STILL IN PLACE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

NEW MASS SCHEDULE (effective June 13/14, 2020)

Saturday 4:00 p.m. – In church and livestreamed
Sunday 7:30 a.m. – In church
10:30 a.m. – In church and livestreamed
5:00 p.m. – In church
Monday through Friday – 6:45 a.m. In church and livestreamed
9:00 a.m. In church

- We will enter the church using the center front doors only. The side entrances will be kept locked. In case of emergency, the side entrances will be available.
- Restrooms will remain locked. Again, in case of an emergency you will be escorted to the bathroom. You will be responsible for sanitizing the bathroom after you use it.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE STRICTLY OBSERVED.** Please sit in the designated areas. Couples and families may sit together in one pew.
- You must wear a mask or facial covering unless you have a valid medical reason for not doing so. Children 2 and under need not wear a mask; masks for children ages 2-5 are left to their parents’ discretion.
- If you are not feeling well or have been exposed to the virus, please stay home.
- **RESERVATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASS.** Under State regulations, 100 people will be allowed in the church at any one time which includes the clergy and lay ministers. **75 reservations will be available on line and 20 will be available by phone reservation. This will be a matter of charity on your part.**

Reservations will be taken each week. We will not accept advance reservations. Priority will be given to those families who have scheduled the Mass intention. You may not be able to have a reservation every week so that others have a chance to attend. Eventually we will be able to gather in the Gathering Hall and Holy Innocents to watch the Mass livestreamed and receive Communion. We will provide information regarding the access of the Reservation Form early next week.

- Missalettes, hymnals, song sheets are not allowed for use during this time.
- **SANITIZING the church is a major part of the re-opening.** The church needs to be sanitized after each service. This takes a great deal of time to be done correctly. As a result, you will be asked to leave the church as soon as the Mass is ended. Please go directly to your cars. Gathering in fellowship/groups will not be allowed.
- **DURING THE WEEK, THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED AT 4:00 P.M. FOLLOWING SANITIZATION.** We will deal with requests for the use of the church after this time on a case by case basis. Again this is a sacrifice in which the greater good of others is the primary concern.
- The Offertory Procession and Exchange of Peace will continue to be omitted during the liturgy.
- **Communion will be distributed at each Mass in church. There will be taped areas indicating spacing, where you stand to receive and where you stand to consume the consecrated host. Please observe them.**

As you can see from the above, there are many issues re-opening the church for public worship. I know it will be a burden for some which is why I am requesting your understanding. Please remember that every diocese is coordinating their own policies and procedures, and we will follow those prescribed by the Diocese of Bridgeport. There will be some variations in the parishes due to their particular situation, but we will all follow the directives printed above.

Please pray for our country in these times of so much upsetment and division. The combination of the effects of the pandemic and the racial tension have made life burdensome for so many. We need to work for peace and justice and pray for the wisdom and guidance we need to see us through these challenges.

God bless,
Monsignor Bob Weiss