



**ST. ROSE OF LIMA**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

46 Church Hill Road  
Newtown, CT 06470

Strosechurch.com  
203-426-1014

May 17, 2020

Re: New Directives for “Parking Lot Mass” and other important information

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks again to all those who continue to serve us, many of whom are at the point of exhaustion. New cases of those with the virus are everyday occurrences as are the growing number of deaths. I have noticed in the past few days an incredible increase of cars out and about. This pandemic is not behind us, so please continue to observe what is being asked of us for the safety and well-being of all people.

Our carnival for this year has been cancelled. This will have a major impact on the parish’s financial stability. I am grateful to those who have been faithful in supporting us through on line giving and dropping off their envelopes, but we are down over \$60,000 from this same 9 week period as last year. I am asking that everyone please support the carnival sweepstakes to the best of your ability.

Next weekend we will celebrate a mass at 12:00 noon in the parking lot. It will be on a first come/first served basis. It is impossible in this parish to communicate effectively in one way. We have many who do not have computers or cell phones or even TV sets. Mail often sits on tables for days before it is opened. So we will do the best we can to keep you informed. Things change daily in terms of guidelines, and we must observe them for the safety of all involved. What happens in one parish or diocese is not necessarily what happens in other dioceses, parishes or our parish. The bishop has given many options as we begin our re-opening. The churches remain closed for public worship and will remain closed until new directives are issued...that is the one uniform policy that is being observed by all the parishes in the Bridgeport diocese.

Next weekend we will continue to livestream the masses on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We will celebrate a “parking lot mass” at 12:00 noon. There are very strict rules that must be observed!

- 1) **If you are a person who usually comes late or leaves early, this mass is not for you!**  
The parking lot will be opened at 11:30 and closed at 12:00 noon. No one will be able to leave early. There will be an organized departure at the end of mass. There will be only one entrance and one exit.
- 2) **Upon entering you will be asked to present to the security team an admission form.**  
These will be available on our website and paper copies will be available in the vestibule.

If you do not have this form filled out upon entry, you will be asked to leave. We are simply asking for your name and contact information. You are also being asked to sign a disclaimer that reads:

*Saint Rose Parish has taken precautions in light of the CDC and Governor Lamont's recommendations regarding public gatherings in light of the possible transmission of the coronavirus. However, despite these precautions, it is possible that transmission of the virus is still possible due to the public nature of the service and the unknowns with how the virus may be transmitted. By registering for this service, participating in the Mass, you acknowledge and understand that you are assuming a risk of transmission and will release Saint Rose Parish or any clergy involved in the service from any responsibility should you contract the virus in the future. You recognize the obligation to wear a mask of face covering, adhere to all required direction regarding social distancing and not attend if you are sick, experiencing any symptoms consistent with the coronavirus or are otherwise required to be quarantined.*

- 3) **The Bishop reminds you that he has extended the dispensation from attending Mass throughout this period.** We would also remind those of you over 65 or who have health issues to please observe that dispensation.
- 4) **Restrooms will not be available.** Please observe the required Eucharistic fast of no food or drink for one hour before Mass.
- 5) **We will not distribute the Eucharist at this first Mass.** We need to review attendance and the cooperation the situation requires. Communion will take a great deal of time with only 50 people allowed out of their vehicles and in line at one time. We cannot have movement of cars with people walking through the lot.

Simply put:

- You will enter between 11:30 and 12:00 noon in the entrance by the Religious Education building (46 Church Hill Road).
- You will be greeted by members of our volunteer security team who will collect your information sheet and signed disclaimer. If this is not done in advance, you will be asked to leave.
- Your offertory will be placed in a free standing receptacle as you enter. A security officer will be positioned to assist you.
- You will then go directly to the parking spaces with the guidance of the Knights of Columbus. Spaces will be filled beginning from the area closest to the church. Please do not choose your own space. Handicap parking is available if you notify the person directing you.
- Restrooms are not available. If there is an emergency, please put on your blinkers and a Knight will come to your car to assist you. Use of public restrooms is a risk we are trying to avoid.
- We will not be distributing the Eucharist.
- Once the Prayer to Saint Michael is concluded, the Knights will begin to direct you to the exit which is located between the church and rectory.
- Again, every parish is different and various options have been made available. Our parish is one of the largest in the diocese and what can happen in a parish smaller than ours is not possible here. We are also blessed with a relatively young community which requires special attention.