

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS THE REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of you have heard the recent announcement given by our Provincial Premier in regard to the reopening of the places of worship. In anticipation of your many questions and our common anxiety to celebrate the Eucharist and to be able to receive Holy Communion, let me give you some information.



At this time there are the most obvious things that will have to happen first, before we will be able to reopen. More detailed information will follow soon.

- 1. We just received our guidelines from the Archdiocese and those will have to be well studied and put in place.***
- 2. We have to organize groups of volunteers to help us (directing the crowd, sanitization, liturgy, registration process, etc.). Those people will have to be properly trained.***
- 3. We have to reorganize the inside of our Church (proper marking, sanitizing stations, etc.). We have to do some measuring to find out how many people exactly we can accommodate, to keep within the required restrictions (this is happening as I type these words, our initial count shows that given all the restrictions, we will be able to have 123 people per Mass)***
- 4. Some system of registration is being developed for those who will want to attend Masses to be properly accommodated.***
- 5. We went over our supplies to make sure we have enough sanitizers and protective gear to reopen. Our suppliers were contacted to restock. Some policies in that regard will have to be put in place.***

Those are just obvious things that come to mind and, as I said, our Diocese just sent us some more detailed guidelines to be followed.

As you can imagine these things take time and cannot be rushed, your safety is my priority. All of us, will have to be patient and work together to make it happen. Each parish has its own character and dynamics, we are blessed with many ministries and a great number of parishioners as part of that, so to coordinate everything, well, it simply takes time.

The obvious question you may have at the moment is:

HOW CAN I HELP?

One thing I'd like to ask of you is to put your name forward if you think you can help as a volunteer (usher), **Please, send your name and a phone number to our office e-mail (di_office@rogers.com) by no later than Thursday (June 18) evening.**

We will need a group of at least 30 ushers in total to help with all the Masses on the weekend (we plan for five Masses). Liturgical ministries will be contacted separately through their leaders and coordinators. **With those who will send their names and volunteer to help as ushers, I'd like to meet for orientation and training on Friday (June 19) at 7pm in the church (bring your masks and gloves, please).**

I'd like to start organizing different functions and services as soon as possible. The obvious recommendation is for our volunteers to be from the age group of lesser danger of infection (60 and younger). **When you send your name please write "within" next to it (meaning you are 60 years of age or younger) or "outside" (meaning you are older than 60).** Only when necessary we will reach out to the older age group. I am especially extending this request to the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Womens League, our usual ushers, Youth Group and Divine Mercy Cenacles. You've been always there to help us and I am sure you will assist your parish family at this special time of need as well. Dear Parishioners we have to work together and not be afraid to demonstrate what true love is all about, especially that selfless and self-sacrificial kind of love.

The other obvious recommendation is for those who are having some health conditions, those who are vulnerable due to their age or any other reason, to stay home and be safe. We will continue the live streaming of our Masses every Sunday and on special occasions for as long as it's necessary. I am sure that our Archbishop will reaffirm all the regulations regarding dispensations from Sunday Mass participation or Spiritual Communion.

Please visit our parish website frequently for more information and all the recent updates, especially in regard to the Mass registration process. On our web site you will also find posted the Diocesan guidelines for reopening. Please read them very carefully as I don't want to repeat the same things in my messages. Let us stay strong and entrust ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the protection of our Blessed Mother Mary.

The exact date of reopening of our church will be communicated as soon as possible, so stay tuned.

In Christ,

Fr. Waldemar Pallon