

Dear Parish Family of St. Paul,

We are pleased to announce that Phase 3 of the Re-Opening of St. Paul Church will commence this Sunday, June 21st. **During this Phase we will once again be able to celebrate Sunday Mass with a congregation.** I wanted to share with you a few notes about our plans and procedures:

MASS SCHEDULE: Masses will be celebrated according to the following schedule:

LIVE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening, 5:00 p.m. in Church

Saturday Evening, 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass
in Church (weekly)

Sunday Morning, 8:00 a.m. in Church

Sunday Morning, 10:00 a.m. in Church (Live Stream)

Sunday Morning, 11 am Outdoor beginning October 4-weather permitting)

Sunday Afternoon, 12 Noon in the Church

Sunday Evening, 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Daily Masses: 7:30 am & Noon (Live Stream-Noon)

all are welcome to join us at www.stpaulrcchurch.org

PLEASE NOTE:

- Numbers of participants in each location will be limited: no more than 150 persons in Church;
- Attendees will be seated on a **First Come/First Served** basis;
- **Masks MUST be worn throughout the entire Mass;**
- Hand Sanitizer must be used upon entering Church or Gym (doors will be propped open);
- For the Church: all participants will enter through the Main Doors on Wyckoff Avenue;
- For the Gym: all participants will enter through the Main doors in the back of the Academy;
- **All participants must social distance at all times:** when entering, when seated, when coming up for Holy Communion, and when leaving.
- **Presiders will give instructions about the way to come forward for Holy Communion.** Reception of the Precious Blood will not be permitted. Communicants must receive the Sacred Host in their hand, then step to the side and place the Sacred Host in their mouths under the mask.
- **All traffic flow in Church or Gym must be one way.** Presiders, ushers and volunteers will be present to help direct.
- There will be no missalettes or song books in Church and bulletins will not be handed out. We encourage parishioners to use the **Parish App** if they wish to access the Scripture Readings for that Sunday. Church bulletin available on website www.stpaulrcchurch.org.
- **There will be no collection.** Baskets will be placed in the sanctuary, those wishing to support their parish may place their offering in the baskets either before Mass begins or after it ends. **We encourage parishioners to sign up for electronic Parish Giving.** Electronic Giving is more regular, helps the parish plan better, **and**

lessens the need for volunteers to physically touch envelopes/cash thus lessening the opportunity for viral transmission.

- There will be no offertory procession, and the Sign of Peace will be offered without physical contact.
- Families may sit together at Mass ("families" being defined as those you live with and know to be coronavirus negative).
- We discourage gathering or chatting on parish property, either in Church or in the Parking Lot for now.
- **Those who are in high risk groups (senior citizens or those with other health concerns) should refrain from attending Mass.** We will continue livestreaming Mass on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and weekdays at Noon. Those who are ill **MUST** remain home as an act of charity toward others. **Cardinal Tobin has removed the obligation for all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Newark to attend Mass on Sunday until further notice.** We thank all parishioners in advance for your flexibility, concern, good will, and adherence to these directives and limitations. **We are sorry in advance for those who may come to Holy Mass and find we have reached capacity, it is never our intention to exclude anyone from the Lord's Table.** We will do our best to help this not to happen- as we monitor numbers of attendees, we will adjust Mass locations as needed. During Phase Three, we will also be able to celebrate the **Sacrament of Baptism**. Please contact the Parish Office for details.

The Old Testament Song of Songs says: "See! *The winter is past; the rains are over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth.... Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!*" God's house is open, and His people are invited to **Come to the Table!** We look forward to seeing you safely, joyfully, and peacefully!

In His love,

Father John Gabriel, Pastor



A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY FROM THE SAINT PAUL YOUTH CHOIRS

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FATHER JOHN GABRIEL, PASTOR

Dear Parish Family:

This past week, the Archdiocese of Newark sent out Directives for Re-Opening our Church. This re-opening will take place in three phases.

I am happy to announce that Phase One will commence this Monday, May 18th.

Beginning that day, and for each day following, we will open the Church from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. for private prayer (days and hours may be adjusted moving forward as we see how these work). Although Masses or other liturgical celebrations are still not permitted, the Church will be open for private prayer during these times. There are, however, a few restrictions and important expectations I need to communicate so that we can ensure the health and safety of all those who come to pray:

- Only ten (10) people will be allowed in the Church at any one time. Staff will be at the main entrance of the Church (nearest Wyckoff Avenue)- this will be the only entrance that will be open. Those who wish to enter the Church must wait on line, at least 6 feet apart, for their turn to enter. We ask each person who wishes to come and pray to remain in Church no longer than 5 or 10 minutes so that there will be enough time for all those who want to spend some time in the Lord's house. As one person leaves, another may enter at the direction of the parish staff. Signs will show those in Church where they may sit.
- All those who come to St. Paul Church **MUST** wear masks the entire time;
- All those who enter St. Paul Church **MUST** use hand sanitizer upon entering.
- The main doors into the church and the door through which people may leave will be propped open so that no one needs to touch a door handle to open or close. These doors are to be kept open at all times, regardless of the weather outside or temperature inside. Please bring a sweater if necessary.
- All those who come to pray **MUST** maintain the requirements of Social Distancing- you must remain minimally six feet apart from others. Our Church is quite large, therefore maintaining a social distance well beyond the required six feet would be possible and expected out of charity for others;
- There is to be no gathering, chatting, etc. either in the Church or parking lot. All those who enter are to maintain a prayerful silence. No liturgical services of any kind are permitted during this phase of re-opening.
- Staff members will be in Church during these times to be certain these directives are being maintained. Anyone non-compliant will be asked to leave, again, out of charity for those who want to pray safely and within the limits necessary.
- If you are elderly or have underlying medical conditions, you should not come to Church at all during this time. If you are feeling ill, you **MUST** remain home and not put others in our Church at risk.
- The church will be disinfected daily.
- The back hallway near the sacristy will be kept off limits to everyone except the priests. Anyone needing a rest room may use the one near the main entrance of the Church (the one nearest Wyckoff Avenue).
- Phase One also permits the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, however, we may not use the Penance Room. Anyone wishing to celebrate this sacrament with one of our priests should contact the Parish Office on Monday (or afterwards) to set up an appointment. The priest will tell you where he will meet you for the

