

Pulpit Announcements for Parishes in the Diocese of Owensboro

Dear Father,

Since our celebration of the Mass will look very different for the time being, it may be helpful to make some announcements to the faithful both before Mass and before the distribution of Holy Communion. The following are some items you may want to cover. Please adapt to fit your unique circumstance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BEFORE MASS:

- The coronavirus has affected our lives in ways that none of us could have ever imagined. Your fast from the Eucharist has been a burden, and we are grateful to be able to return now to the public celebration of the Mass. However, the pandemic is still with us and so it is necessary to come back with some precautions in place out of a sense of Christian charity. A concern for the most vulnerable is one of our greatest obligations as a Christian people, and so I ask for your cooperation in following all of the guidelines. Let's keep our trust in the Lord to see us through until our entire community can come together again to worship in full.
- Our parish staff and volunteers are making every effort to sanitize our church after each Mass, including restrooms and frequently touched objects such as door handles, push plates and hand rails.
- Our worship will look and feel different for a while. The following are a few things for you to keep in mind concerning our liturgy today and in the coming days:
 - First, Bishop Medley has extended his dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday until further notice.
 - Since there is no obligation, anyone who desires to return to the public celebration of the Mass may attend Mass on any day of the week. Our weekday Mass schedule is *(as follows / listed in the bulletin / listed on our website)*.
 - We ask that everyone, including children over the age of 2, wear your face mask throughout the entire Mass except for the reception of Holy Communion.
 - For those who do not live in the same household, please offer the sign of peace to one another with a bow of the head instead of a handshake or hug.
 - For those who do not live in the same household, please do not hold hands during the Our Father.
 - We will not have any communal singing for the time being. Our cantor and instrumentalist will provide the singing for us.
 - We will not be passing the collection basket. To drop off your envelope, you'll find the collection basket *(give location)*.

- The cry room is not available for use.
- At the end of Mass, we ask that you exit the church a pew at a time, beginning from the back of the church. *(If your parish has a different exit plan, please explain that to the community at this time.)*
- Please do not congregate after Mass but go straight to your cars.
- I'll give you more instructions about the reception of Holy Communion at that point in our Mass today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BEFORE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- *(Announcement for Sundays):* Just to remind you once more, Bishop Medley has extended his dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. Therefore, you are not obligated to receive Holy Communion. If you do not receive Holy Communion, you may make a spiritual communion.
- If you choose to receive, please maintain a distance of 6 feet between one another in the Communion procession.
- We will not be offering Communion on the tongue. Please keep your face mask in place until you receive Holy Communion in your hand. Then step to the side and remove the covering long enough to place the host in your mouth.
- We will not be offering the Precious Blood to the community at this time.