

How Does This Update Affect Our Parish?

1) **Public Masses:** All Masses will resume effective Saturday/Sunday, May 16/17, with the following guidelines:

-Anyone who is ill, running a fever, or has been exposed to someone with COVID 19 **must remain at home.**

-Persons ages 65 and older, or with serious health conditions, **are encouraged to remain at home.**

-All people of the diocese are still dispensed from attending Sunday Mass, regardless of the reason, even if it is just that you are uncomfortable going out in public. However, the diocese reminds everyone they are still obligated to observe the Lord's Day, which can be done in a variety of ways, including attending an online Mass or observing an hour of prayer at home.

-**All persons entering the building (ages 10 and older) must have a face-covering.** Face-coverings will stay in place throughout Mass, except when lowered to receive Communion.

-All persons are asked to **enter through the main front doors**; please **use the hand sanitizer as you enter the building.** (The side 2 entrances to church will remain locked during the time hand sanitizer is required.) If possible, please bring your own from home.

-Father will offer Mass by himself. The only ministers who need to assist at Mass are the lector, a cantor, and one usher (the schedule will be revised). There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood. If receiving Communion in the hand, your hand must be *ungloved*; if you are not receiving, please remain in your pew as there will be no blessings.

-Except for family units, there will be **no contact** with each other while at Mass, no Sign of Peace, and no holding hands during the Our Father. **Safe distancing is to be observed** at all times; save socializing for outdoors in the open air.

2) **Donations:** We are grateful to those who have continued to donate to the church during the past 6 weeks. If you are financially able, please consider contributing if you haven't already, as the church still has bills to pay. If you are able to come to Mass, you will see that there will be no passing of the collection basket, for the time being; instead, a collection basket will be placed in the vestibule. If you are unable to come to Mass, **donations may be mailed to: PO Box 970, Cherokee Vlg, AR 72525, or processed through your bank's Bill Pay.**

3) **Missalettes and Hymnals:** We were instructed to remove all printed material so that we are not touching things in common. You may bring a missal from home if you'd like, please take it home when you leave. Music will be provided by the cantor only.

4) **Bulletins:** We have been instructed not to pass out bulletins at the end of Mass. They will be available in the vestibule on the table by the lamps, you may take one as you leave. They are also available on our website or can be emailed to you *upon request*.

5) **Communion to the Homebound and Sick/Anointing:** Visits to the Homebound, Sick, or Nursing Homes with Holy Communion are still not permitted; if there is an imminent danger of death, please call Fr. Amal, 870-257-4456.

6) **Confession:** Confessions will resume on Saturdays prior to the Vigil Mass, beginning at 3pm, but will continue to take place in the Library. We ask that those waiting for Confession keep a 6' distance from one another.

7) **Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration will continue as scheduled but will be moved back to the Adoration Chapel effective Monday, May 18. The church will remain open during office hours, Mon - Fri from 10am-12Noon, if you would like to stop in to pray. If someone would like to stop in to pray *after* 12Noon, please ring the doorbell by the main doors (on the far right door frame). If possible, come "on-the-hour" so the disturbance of those praying is minimized.

8) **Church Office:** The Church Office will be open for business from 10am-Noon. If you have a question or need an appointment with Father, please call the Office; if we are on another call, or it is after Open Hours, leave a message on the voice mail and we will return your call.

9) **Meetings and Events:** All non-essential meetings and gatherings are still suspended until further notice. Coffee and Donuts will not be served after Mass at this time.

10) **Funerals:** Funeral Masses will be scheduled as needed, maintaining a safe distance and the wearing of face masks will still apply. No Funeral Luncheons may be held at this time.

11) **Restrooms:** Only the upstairs restrooms will be available; please refrain from going down to the Parish Hall.