

June 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

A committee has been hard at work to plan for the reopening of St. Matthew's. I am pleased to announce that your church will be reopening on Tuesday, June 23 at 8:30 am. We will resume our regular schedule of weekday Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 am. For the time being we will be changing our weekend Mass schedule to one Mass on Saturday at 5 pm and **one Mass on Sunday morning at 9:30 am** in order to accommodate the many guidelines required to keep us all safe during this pandemic. Please know that for the foreseeable future Mass will be very different.

It is critical that you know that your obligation to attend Mass has been suspended until this pandemic is over. If you feel at all sick or if you simply do not feel comfortable in larger crowds **you are under no obligation to attend Mass**. In fact, if you feel sick or anxious you **must not** attend. If you want to attend Mass and your schedule permits but do not want to be in larger crowds you may want to consider attending an 8:30 am weekday Mass.

In order to return to **Weekend Mass** you will **need to make a reservation**. Ministers assisting at Mass must also register. In order to reserve your seats please go to our website stmatthewsvoorheesville.org and click on the link for iTickets. You can also email Peggy McQuade, our Minister of Hospitality at stmattswelcome@gmail.com or by calling Peggy at 518-765-2805, ext. 14. Beginning June 22nd reservations for the upcoming weekend Masses can be made anytime between 8 am Monday and Noon on Friday. There is no charge for this service. You will select a seat(s) either in the church proper or in the social hall. More specific instruction will be provided on the ticketing site. A very limited number of seats will be available for guests who would be unfamiliar with this process. Once the church has reached 25% of capacity we will not be allowed by law to admit anyone else into the building. We will also continue to tape our Mass. You can access the Mass on our website or directly on YouTube.

On the back side of this letter you will find a list of things you should do and know before you attend Mass. Please keep this list for future reference. I am very much looking forward to welcoming you back to your parish home and to the Mass.

Rev. Christopher DeGiovine

- Everyone over the age of 2 years must **bring and wear a face mask.**
- **Please bring and use personal hand sanitizer** especially before receiving Holy Communion.
- **You must register to attend Mass.**
- Ambassadors/Ushers will direct you as you enter and exit the church. Please follow their directions and the signs for **entering and exiting** the church. **Entrance** to the church will be **through the lobby (west side of the building)** where you will be greeted. **Exit** from the church will be through the front doors (**Mountainview St. side**) at the direction of the ambassadors/ushers.
- **Social distancing** will be practiced at all times in church.
- At Mass you will be directed on **how to receive Holy Communion.**
- **Music during the Mass** will be limited to a keyboard, other instruments, and a cantor only.
- **Offertory/Collection boxes** will be at the entrances to the church for weekly donations.
- **No gatherings** can be allowed before or after Mass.
- **No bulletins or missalettes** can be used at Mass. No food, toys, books, etc. can be allowed into the church.