

## St. Patrick and St. Mary of the Woods Social Distancing

Updated: May 28, 2020

The Archbishop has lifted the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays during this time. Parishioners are free to attend a weekday Mass rather than a Sunday Mass; the Livestreamed 10:00 AM Mass will continue on Facebook. There are additional Mass times the weekend of May 30/31 and June 6/7. SMOW will have the 6 PM Vigil, 8 and 10 AM Masses. St. Patrick will be adding an 8 PM Mass on May 30 (with Sacraments of Initiation for RCIA) and a 12:00 Mass (with 1<sup>st</sup> Communions) on June 7. The additional Masses should help to space out the congregation. Please keep in mind that our churches can seat less than half of their usual capacity. Please listen to ushers if they need to adjust seating to maximize capacity.

At our first public Mass, people were aware of social distancing protocols and they self-distanced well. I anticipate that individuals will continue to self-distance, but we will be implementing the following safeguards as well.

- Every other pew has a sign in it indicating that it is to be left empty for social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is available at church doors.
- Doors are to be propped open before and after Mass (weather permitting) to prevent people from touching the handles.
- Families are asked to sit together to maximize seating.
- Please be aware of those wearing masks; they are likely to be more careful with social distancing. People can wear masks if they choose to do so.
- The church will be cleaned after Masses, including all high-touch points (pews, doors, handles, etc.)
- The sign of peace will be omitted, and there will be no distribution of the Eucharist from the chalice. There is no holy water in the fonts; there is a holy water dispenser in the back of church.
- The gifts will not be brought up on procession; the bread and wine will go from the sacristy to the credence table before Mass.

### Ushers

- As the church fills up, you will need to help people find open seats.
- [SMOW] The foyer can be used to handle overflow when the rest of the church is full.
- [St. Pat] The choir loft can be used to handle some overflow. Additionally, people can sit/stand in the hallway by the exterior doors and landings behind the choir loft. If the weather is nice, they can stand outside the main doors. We are setting up the Livestream for overflow in Makley Hall if we have overflow at the 10:00 AM.
- The Ushers and SVDP will use baskets with the handle on them for collections. Baskets are not to be passed from person to person. [St. Pat] The SVDP collection will follow that protocol as well.
- For communion, people are asked to leave space in front of them and behind them as they wait in line. The two distribution stations will be further apart than usual.

We will adjust/adapt our plan as necessary following the first weekend of public Masses. Thank you for your patience and cooperation, and let me know if you have any questions.