

# ST. PATRICK'S

ELKHORN NE CATHOLIC CHURCH

May 18, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I am excited to say we will be opening our doors for Mass beginning June 1, 2020. What a blessing that will be! I am hoping, however, that we will have a SLOW and CAREFUL beginning. Please note, weekend Mass times will temporarily change to Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. As we see what attendance is, along with our capability to properly clean our worship space, Mass times may be adjusted. We will also continue to stream Masses online.

**The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation to participate in the Mass remains in place for all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Omaha until further notice.** Anyone who is in an at-risk group or does not feel safe attending a public gathering should stay home. Even with the best health practices and increased efforts to clean the Church, there is a risk of infection anytime a person enters a public space.

**The following people should remain home for the time being:**

- The elderly
- People with underlying medical conditions
- Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk
- People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions
- People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms
- People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms
- People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19
- People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19

Accompanying this letter is a document outlining procedures we will be implementing for those attending Mass. Please, note these may change at any time, as we adapt to our new best practices, or receive recommendations from the Health Department, Archdiocese

and other officials.

In order to keep proper distancing, every other pew will be roped off. Also, people will need to sit apart from one another unless they are from the same household family. This procedure drastically affects our seating capacity. When the church is at full capacity, we will need to close the doors and not allow anyone else to enter. Because of that, I am asking anyone who has a health issue or anyone who is older to please stay home for a while yet. Our Saturday 5:00 pm Mass will continue to be livestreamed, so that will help immensely.

If you choose to come to Mass, we strongly encourage you to wear a mask. This will be a sign of your respect for your health and for the health of those around you. If you do not have a mask, we will have some available.

Please be PATIENT with this whole process. It is very important to me that we open the church in as healthy and safe of a manner as possible. Continue to watch our website and your email for the latest information available. If you are not receiving our Flocknote emails, please contact our parish office to update your information. ([parish@stpatselkhorn.org](mailto:parish@stpatselkhorn.org) or 402-289-4289)

Blessings to you and your family,

Fr. Tom Fangman

*\*RCIA and 1st Eucharist candidates please look for separate communication regarding these special Masses.*