



– THE –
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
of ST. THOMAS MORE

Return to Jerusalem Parish Update 5-30-21

Two weeks ago, after the state mandated social distancing and mask requirement were lifted and after receiving new guidance from the diocese, and after consulting with other pastors, I ended our requirement of mask wearing and social distancing in the church. At the same time, we encouraged everyone to get the COVID vaccine as we seek the common good. We also created a section of the church for those who wish to be distanced from others and where masks must be worn. This is also the case for those seated in the Friends and Family Hall.

After further consultation with other pastors of similar parishes, and in consultation with our staff we will be making the following additional changes:

Beginning next weekend:

- ❖ The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be returning to the confessionals here in the church.
- ❖ We will resume the liturgical practice of members of the assembly presenting the offertory gifts.

Per Bishop Zarama's instructions, the Sign of Peace through physical touch and the reception of the Blood of Christ continues to be suspended.

Music: Some of our choir members and others may be wondering about what we will be doing with choirs. The current plan at this time for music ensembles (including choirs) is to begin again in the Fall, around Labor Day weekend, as is their custom. The size of and potential new guidelines/practices for each ensemble will be determined by the data and recommendations as we progress through the summer months.

Mass schedule: I am anticipating that a Parochial Vicar will be assigned to the parish and he will begin with us in late June. With the addition of this priest, we will be able to implement a new weekend Mass schedule beginning **July 3-4:**

Saturday Vigil:	5:15 p.m.	English
	7:15 p.m.	Spanish

Sunday:	7:30 a.m.	English	
	9:15 a.m.	English	(livestreamed)
	11:15 a.m.	English	
	1:15 p.m.	Spanish	(livestreamed)

This schedule reflects the permanent addition of the Saturday night Vigil Mass in Spanish and a new start time for the Sunday Mass in Spanish, an additional Mass in English (11:15 a.m.) and a return to the pre-Covid start times for all Sunday Masses in English.

When this change takes place in July, we will begin to use the hymnals again and will discontinue the use of printed worship aids in the church.

Also, at that time, the Sanctus and Memorial Acclamation will again be sung. We will also resume passing the collection baskets that weekend except in section 1 and in Friends and Family Hall.

We will also resume Mass on Mondays beginning on **July 5**. The time for this Mass will be 5:15 PM. (Please note that the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish has Mass each weekday at 12 noon)

Once the *El Camino* connector path to the South Campus is completed, we will consider celebrating the Weekday Masses, except for the 12:15 p.m. Wednesday and 8:40 a.m. Friday Mass with the school, in the St. John Fisher Chapel. This path will allow for direct access to additional parking when the parking lot on the South Campus is full.

We continue our full Return to Jerusalem. Step by step, we are returning to the worship life that we knew prior to March of 2020. Liturgy is what we do best at this parish. I look forward to more joyful sounds and greater participation as we continue to strive to pray faithfully and well.

Fr. Scott McCue
Pastor