



Annunciation Parish

3547 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220, 513-861-1295

www.annunciationbvmparish.org

www.facebook.com/annunciationbvmparish

June 21, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Annunciation Parish,

This letter is to inform you of the decision to **resume public worship at Annunciation Parish, effective Sunday, June 28th, at 10:00 a.m.**

First, I wish to thank our Parish COVID-19 Response Team: Gary Brichler, Annie & Ron Hamilton, Susan Hoelle, Teresa Hoelle & Scott Provancher, Sarah Ronan-Bentle, Beth Shaughnessy, and Robert Turner. The Team was called into action early May, and has not only met several times via ZOOM meetings, but has done extensive research into the issues involved in the COVID-19 Pandemic, and developed a reasonable and thoughtful protocol for our return to worship. I am grateful for their work and for their commitment to you and your health and safety. I trust you are equally grateful.

Second, our return to public worship will proceed in phases, as follows:

1. Beginning Sunday, June 28th, 10:00 a.m. – Sunday Mass
2. Beginning Wednesday, July 1st, 8:00 a.m. – A weekly, weekday Mass, every Wednesday
3. Church open for private prayer, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
4. Resumption of Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass, to be determined based upon the needs and experience of the Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass
5. Resumption of other 8:00 a.m. weekday Masses, to be determined going forward

The above schedule will be until further notice. Indeed, the current **DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**. This is in recognition of the continued spread of the coronavirus, and our need to exercise reasonable precaution regarding public gatherings.

Third, those attending public Masses at Annunciation will be asked to comply with our protocols for **Safe Worship at Annunciation** (enclosed), and to cooperate with all guidance and direction provided by Ushers and Greeters, especially at the Sunday Mass. As part of this effort, if at all possible, all are asked

to have their own cloth face coverings, and, again if possible, to bring your own bottles of hand sanitizer – although both will be provided as needed at the entrance to Church.

This is a challenging time. We desire to return to our common celebration of the Eucharist, but we also wish to be responsible in safeguarding, to the best of our ability, the health and well-being of all. More than a few in our community, availing themselves of the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, and exercising reasonable caution, will continue to remain at home, as Domestic Church, praying and bringing forth the Kingdom through prayer and works of mercy, justice, love and peace. We must not make any distinction between those who choose to come to public worship and those who choose to remain at home. Such distinctions risk divisions in the Body of Christ, dismissing the grace of the Eucharist, which is the unity of believers.

Our experience of public worship will not be a return to the familiar for some time. The manner of gathering, the manner of praying, the modification of the Assembly's singing, the manner of receiving Holy Communion, will all be different. And the manner in which we do these things might be confusing for us who are accustomed to a deep, shared, active participation that belongs to all the members of the Body of Christ. We go forward mindful that the Eucharist, indeed the entire liturgical life of the Church, is not individual piety and devotion, but the work of one body, one people, one in Christ.

My hope and my prayer, with thirty years of ordained ministry behind me and the vision of the liturgical renewal – begun way before the Second Vatican Council, and still in its early years - before me, is that when we all can be together again, and worship fully, and actively, and consciously, it will be with the knowledge and conviction that this act of worship belongs to all of us, and it is our baptismal privilege to offer it faithfully every Lord's Day. To the glory of God, and for the salvation of souls.

May God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Todd O. Grogan
Pastor

P.S. Please note that the resumption of Mass on June 28th is a decision made in response to the current coronavirus conditions prevailing in Hamilton County. Should these conditions deteriorate, the Parish COVID-19 Team will respond accordingly. This may result in changes in our plans and in our protocols for resuming public Mass. **Please be "alert" for any additional Parish communication.**