

Pastor's Corner



My Brothers and Sisters:

Friday, July 31st, Jim Mann retired. Jim has been our Business Manager for the past 9-and-a-half years. He was a good match for Saint Lawrence, and we will probably still see his face around for the next few weeks of transition. Please keep our Search Committee in your prayers. We are in the final days of interviews for a new Business Manager.

People are asking where we see the weekend Masses going with the opening up of public spaces in our state and city proceeding in fits-and-starts. The short answer is – I don't know. I am still watching. I think we still have a week before the Archbishop makes a decision about extending the dispensation from the obligation to get to Sunday and Holy Day Masses. At present, that dispensation is until August 15. And whether there is a dispensation or not, we are always reminded that God does not require us to do what we cannot. If we are sick, particularly vulnerable to infection, or are a possible source of infection to others, our responsibility is to stay home.

A week ago I spoke with a parishioner on the phone, who asked me when we would be starting Masses. I responded by saying we had, and described how. This person had missed the postcard we sent out. It was a reminder to me that not everyone has heard about our Masses; even with postcards, emails, the website, word-of-mouth, and myParish App. We have to keep repeating the message. I ask you all to continue to check on parishioners and neighbors, and let them know of our weekend schedule as well as see how they are doing. Thank you.

For those who may have forgotten – I asked that for the time being the spacing in the Church will allow about 100 people per Mass. Because we normally had about 200 per Mass for our English Masses and 350 for our Spanish Masses, we will alternate the weekends we go. We have not updated the schedule over the past 2 months, but the original proposal would look like this today:

Households with names beginning with A-K come every other weekend

August 1-2, then next August 15-16.

Households with names beginning with L-Z come every other weekend

August 8-9, then next August 22-23.

Of course in our English Masses, we are still averaging about 50 people – which is half our capacity. So if you forget what weekend it is, just come.

And remember, if you are worried that you may still be too close to people, our weekday Masses normally have half a dozen people – sometime 20. You can really socially distance Tuesday through Friday.

One more thing – this coming Friday August 7 at 5:30pm we are having our third “Senior Mass.” Anyone 65 years old or older who has been staying away from Mass because of the dangers of being around large groups who may be in touch with many people - you might find this helpful.

As always, please know of my prayers,

In Christ the Risen One,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Tom in black ink.