

Beginning Public Masses

My Dear Parish Family,

As I promised during last Sunday's YouTube Mass, I am writing a second email to you regarding our phased reopening of the Parish Church. This past week, we have opened the Church for private prayer, and some people have indeed decided to take advantage of this opportunity.

During this next week, beginning May 25, we will begin public Masses. Our YouTube Masses will continue to be offered as they are now – including both daily and Sunday Masses.

Throughout this week, I have been meeting with various members of the parish, as well as clergy and staff. What we have come to realize is that some changes will need to be made in our schedule for both private prayer and for Mass. The reason for these changes is to allow time for additional cleaning and sanitizing of the church as an extra precaution for your health and safety.

New Visit and Mass Schedule

Beginning May 25, the schedule for visits to the Church and for Masses will be as follows:

PRIVATE PRAYER VISITS:

Tuesday through Thursday	12 (Noon) – 4:00 PM,
Saturday	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- Mondays and Fridays will now be used for deeper cleaning as necessary.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday, Tuesday and Saturday	8:00 AM
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday	5:30 PM

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 PM
Sunday	7:30 AM and 10:45 AM

We feel that this schedule should meet our *needs* for the time being. We know that some people prefer morning Masses and some evening Masses. This

schedule is an equitable distribution between the two. If we discover that we need additional Masses and that we are able to safely re-introduce them, we will reconsider the schedule at that time.

Some Additional Considerations

1. **BISHOP'S DISPENSATION:** Bishop Barbarito has extended his dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation for everyone! To quote that dispensation, "Simply stated, as we begin and continue the process of 'reopening,' *no one is obliged or should feel obligated to come to church.*"
2. **YOUTUBE MASSES:** In an ongoing effort to allow you to participate in Mass safely from home, we will continue to offer both Daily and Sunday Masses on our YouTube channel, [St. Paul of the Cross NPB](#)
3. **PRUDENCE IN COMMON SPACES:** Like other common and public spaces, no matter how much effort we make to keep your church clean, you will be entering a space where you may come in contact with many people and other people may have touched the surfaces that you will touch. Please use the appropriate precautions, such as "social distancing," face coverings and perhaps gloves. Please read my previous [Message](#) for recommended specifics.
4. **PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** You are the best judge of your health. If you feel that it would be unwise or imprudent for you to attend Mass, please see #1 above. Finally, please also realize that as Christians we are called to care for one another. Some of the actions that are recommended actually do more to show that you care about others, such as using a face covering throughout the Mass. Please help us keep you and everyone else safe and healthy.

I look forward to seeing those who choose to attend Mass in person, and I especially look forward to the day when we will all be able to do so safely. I also want to thank you all for your continued support of your parish, as we navigate this difficult time together.

We are a community. We are a family. We are St. Paul of the Cross.

May God bless you, your family and the Parish Family of St. Paul of the Cross,

Fr. Tom