

May 20, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

You have all been very patient and understanding regarding the wait of our return to the Mass in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bishop Powers has a huge responsibility in trying to do what is best for all the people of this Diocese—and doing it in union with the other Bishops of the state. So thank you to all you faithful and understanding people.

It is the decision of the bishops of this state to open with Communion services. I met with Bishop Powers and the other priests of our Diocese yesterday through an online meeting. Parishes of our Diocese will begin **with Communion Services this Sunday, May 24th.**

For our parish, we are hopeful that the best means of conducting Communion services at Good Shepherd, is to offer the short services from Noon until 2 pm on Sundays. Therefore, we will not be offering Adoration Sunday mornings any longer. (However, Adoration will continue Tuesdays through Saturdays from Noon until 3 pm, with Confession available during those times.) Directives are listed on the reverse of this letter, in great detail.

The Communion services will be done in groups of 8 (or fewer) people as you arrive. Please remain in your vehicles, parking along the front of the church, until you are approached by an usher. The services will be held under the canopy and are not lengthy. Coming into church will be for the reception of Holy Communion only. Pews should not be used during that time. Father Raj will be in front of church to distribute Holy Communion to you, and then please exit through the west side door.

For this week, we will try having people with the last names of A-M come sometime during the Noon to 1:00 shift; names N-Z come between 1:00 until 2:00 pm, if possible.

There are very specific directives we must follow as were discussed with Bishop Powers this week. You will find them spelled out on the reverse side of this letter. Be aware that anyone not feeling well, the elderly and those with a compromised immune system should not come. However, for those who are able to come, and if you are comfortable coming, we expect that you will be there.

Ushers and prayer leaders (EMEs) will be needed, hopefully enough to do a one-hour shift each week. Please call the office if you are able to assist with these ministries, so we can inform you of the details.

Thank you and may God bless us all.

Father Raj

**Communion Services at Good Shepherd
Sundays, beginning May 24**

The decision was made by the dioceses of the state of Wisconsin to slowly begin with Sunday Communion services, **starting THIS WEEKEND, May 24th**, with restrictions still in place. Following are the details, which may need to be adjusted after this is given a try this weekend:

* Only those who are healthy should participate. Older adults and those with compromised immune systems are strongly encouraged to stay home. Anyone concerned for their health at this time is not obligated to come.

* Those coming should still properly prepare for the reception of the Holy Eucharist: One should abstain for at least one hour (canon 919) from food and drink (except for water & meds). It is encouraged that you view the celebration of the Mass online or television prior to attending. Otherwise, try to read Scripture prior to coming.

* Attendance at each Communion service is still limited to 9 or less people at a time (including the priest). This is how it will run:

There will be NO Adoration on Sunday mornings, starting May 24! (Adoration and Confession **will** continue Tues. through Sat. from Noon until 3 pm—but no Adoration Sundays. Instead, two hours of Communion Services will be offered as follows:

Parishioners with the last names A-M are asked to attend sometime between Noon and 1 pm Sunday; parishioners with the last names N-Z are asked to attend for Communion sometime between 1 and 2 pm Sunday. (If your schedule does not work for that hour, come the other hour.) You are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

Cars should park **ALONG THE ANGLE PARKING ONLY. FILL THE WESTERLY OPEN SPACES FIRST.** Remain in your vehicles until an usher comes to invite you to the next service, for only 8 people will be asked to join a service at one time. While Father is distributing Holy Communion to 8 people in church, a brief prayer service will be held outdoors under the canopy with the next 8 people, led by a prayer leader (Eucharistic Minister).

The 8 people that can enter church should allow an usher to open the door for them, while always maintaining the social distancing. Tape will be placed on the carpeting for this. The pews will be marked off, as no one should be kneeling and praying at any time in church during those two hours. One by one, you would receive Communion, go to your right and exit church via the west side door. A basket for any contributions will be available in the front of church, and bulletins available as you exit the west door. Please, no loitering outside to avoid congestion of people and vehicles. No Communion on the tongue is being offered. Hand sanitizer is to be used before and after you receive Communion. You will find it both at the door of entrance, and at the door as you leave. Post-Communion prayers can be said in your vehicle or when you return home.

PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH THIS PROCESS. IT IS NEW TO US ALL THIS WEEKEND. THANK YOU.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

*Please pray this prayer after you return to your vehicle
or after you return home from the service.*

**All powerful and ever living God,
May the Body and Blood of Christ your Son
Be for our brothers and sisters
A lasting remedy for the body and soul.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**