



May 24th 2020 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Wayne States Universally

We received word that Larry Newman died. His funeral Mass will occur on a later date. Hospitalized for several weeks he became our parish's first known casualty of the Coronavirus pandemic. In this difficult time please keep Denise and the family in your prayers. Eternal rest grant onto him, O Lord.

We have the green light from the Archdiocese to resume Weekend Masses. The schedule will resume beginning with 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, May 30th. The Adoration Chapel will reopen at 12 noon on Friday May 22nd. The church building will be open only for the sacraments. Meetings, events, and activities are not permitted yet. The Food Pantry will continue as it has these past several weeks responding to those in need. Donations of food are always welcome, and much appreciated by the recipients, much more than you'll ever know.

Reopening the church after standing idle is not as simple as it sounds. Much preparation is needed to do so safely and effectively. Reopening the adoration chapel is less complex and can be done more quickly than the church.

The health, safety, and well-being of everyone is most important. As an aging community, we are more vulnerable than other segments of the population. Using best medical and industrial practices, additional precautions will be taken that many other parishes do not require.

For the foreseeable future, physical distancing and face coverings are going to be a way of life. If you leave your face covering at home, there will be a limited supply available for young and older children as well as for adults.

To prepare the building for use, several things will change. The worship space will look different. How some things are done will also be different. The Holy Water stoops and the Baptismal font are empty and will remain dry. The orange chairs have been removed and replaced

with folding chairs that are easier to clean and sanitize between Weekend Masses. Seating is limited to 25% capacity [125 in the church, 52 in the Parish Hall, 25 in the Narthex]. Hymnals will be stored and replaced with modest one-time use worship aides to be taken home and recycled.

There will be three Communion lines in the church, one in the narthex, one perhaps two in the Parish Hall. Physical distancing is to be maintained while Communion is distributed. You will need to sanitize your hands before receiving communion. For this purpose, please bring your own. The Precious Blood will not be distributed anytime in the foreseeable future.

Entry to the church will be through the Main entrance. All other entrances will be closed. Everyone entering the building will be pre-screened. A Parish Nurse will take your temperature. You will be asked the usual health questions: Do you have a cough, shortness of breath, or the loss of taste or smell? Afterwards, you will register yourself and your family for attendance. Registration serves two purposes. First, to update phone numbers. Second, to have the ability to contact trace should someone near you have fallen ill. Early in the pandemic, someone from the parish called to see how you were doing. We found many phone numbers were no longer in service. Much has changed since the Parish Pictorial Directory was published two years ago.

Before entering the church proper, everyone will be required to sanitize their hands. Since the collection basket will no longer be passed, a large basket will be placed in the Baptismal Font area to drop off your weekly donation. Thereafter, you may be seated. Chairs will be placed in groupings of four. Some families may need more. Others will not require as many. You may move your chair anywhere you desire so long as the required 6' physical distancing is maintained.

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Continued from cover . . .

After the final hymn, chairs will be washed with soap and water, sanitized and left to air dry. The restrooms will also be cleaned and sanitized. Only the church restrooms will be available for use. The others will be closed.

At the time of this writing, the carpet is being cleaned. The new organ sounds absolutely wonderful. I am amazed at the sound quality. The old organ was good. This one is really good! I think you will notice the difference as well. David is having the time of his life practicing on it. Until things get back to some semblance of normalcy, we will rely more upon music at Mass and less on singing.

It has been suggested that a Mass be added for Seniors and those with underlying health conditions. I am giving serious thought to the idea. An outdoor Saturday evening Mass is also under consideration. Details for both are being worked out and will be announced in the future.

The pews and chairs in the adoration chapel, the books, and the bookcase in the hallway have been removed. They are in storage. Plastic chairs will be used. They are easier to clean and disinfect. Those who use the chapel will need to self-pre-screen. Directions will be posted at the chapel door. It is imperative that all who visit the chapel use the Sign In book. Much like the church registration process, we will have a means to contact those who were in near proximity should an illness arise and come to our attention. Up to date phone numbers are also needed. You may want to bring a seat cushion and a throw in the event you are chilled. You will need to bring your own prayer book, reading materials, and rosary. When you finish prayer and leave, please wipe down your chair to sanitize it for the next person and please take home everything you brought with you. The chapel restroom will be cleaned and sanitized only once a day. It is as good as we can do. We do not have the ability to clean and sanitize the chapel restroom after each use. Clean, clean, clean. It's all about keeping things clean. To that end we will do our best.

Parish life as we knew it will not be the same anytime soon. Given limited availability of the Parish Office during the week, at least one staff person will be available at weekend Mass to conduct limited business, answer your questions, and to assist you in any other way. For now, we will shift from a daily operation to a weekend operation. Weekday Mass will take place in the Narthex. Morning Prayer with Communion will no longer take place. The same for the rosary and other prayers said before and after Mass also will not take place. Given the difficulty of cleaning the church after each use, every available moment is needed to clean and sanitize.

Coffee Talk will become Coffee to Go. Coffee, tea, and donuts will be available after Sunday morning Masses. Coffee, Tea, and cookies can be taken along with you after the Saturday evening Mass. To minimize waste, please bring your own travel mug. Regular cups will be available for those who forget.

We are still collecting pop cans, plastic caps, and printer cartridges. Don't through them away!

Pentecost marks the moment of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the Upper Room. Those who emerged from the room were far different than those who entered it. Entering as disciples, student followers, they left as Apostles, ambassadors of Christ. The moment of Pentecost marks the beginning of the church. It is also our paternal Feast Day. To mark the occasion and that of our return to Church on the weekend of May 30th & 31st, I suggest that we wear something with red on it. I look forward to seeing you then.

Take Care, Be Well,
Fr. Wayne

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24

Sunday, May 24:

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mt 28:16-20

Monday, May 25:

Acts 19:1-8 | Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 26

Acts 20:17-27 | Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 27:

Acts 20:28-38 | Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 28:

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 | Jn 17:20-26

Friday, May 29:

Acts 25:13b-21 | Jn 21:15-19

Saturday, May 30:

Jl 3:1-5 | Rom 8:22-27 | Jn 7:37-39

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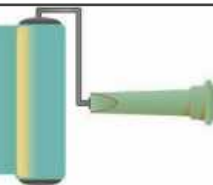
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