



# St. Andrew the Apostle

## Roman Catholic Church

*Love God, Serve Neighbor, Nurture Disciples*

Looking ahead . . .

As we get closer to worshipping together inside the church again, I wanted to let you in on what it might be like when we return. Like I've said all throughout our time away, we've never had to do this before, so be patient and kind.

I'm writing this letter on Wednesday, and Governor Cooper has not yet opened us officially to phase 2. He is likely to do that today, but please keep in mind – I take my orders from the Bishop! We cannot officially open up Mass in the church until we receive his permission. However, we did not want another week to go by before sharing the plans with you.

This weekend, we will have another Communion Service in the parking lot. It will be done the same way as last weekend, but the times will be compressed: only once beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.

When we receive permission from the Bishop, we will begin having public Masses at St. Andrew with reduced capacity. The Mass schedule will be as follows:

- Saturday, 5:00 pm (confessions in the Fellowship Hall at 3:30)
- Sunday, 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

We cannot have the 7:30 Mass due to the need for sanitizing between services. We will have approximately 200 people in the church and 50 in the Fellowship Hall watching a livestream. Standing room will only be available in the courtyard, and we ask that you maintain social distancing.

Important things to note:

- Restrooms and water fountains will be CLOSED.
- Limited hand sanitizer is available, so we ask that you please bring your own.
- Pews will be roped off, so please do not expect to sit in your "regular" space.
- Ushers will be directing seating and exiting. **Please do not leave your seat or proceed into the church/hall without the usher's direction.**
- Masks or scarves will be required for entry. You must bring your own face covering.
- Eucharistic Ministers will be wearing masks and gloves and Communion will only be given out in the hand.
- The cry room, Children's Liturgy, and the nursery will be unavailable until further notice.
- The Bishop has not reinstated the obligation, and will not until we are allowed full capacity. We will continue to provide a recorded Mass online each week until that time.
- You will leave the church/hall immediately after receiving Communion – this will feel strange, but it helps to ensure proper distancing.
- Communion will be distributed at limited points near exits.
- Pews and high-touch areas such as door handles will be sanitized after each Mass. The chairs in the Fellowship Hall will be also.
- Hymnals will not be available, and there will not be congregational singing.
- Daily Masses will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 9:00 am with a 50-person capacity.
- Collection baskets will be located toward the exits – not passed by the ushers.



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While I am really excited to get back together with you all, it's important to remember that just because we can get back to church does not mean that everyone should. COVID-19 has not gone away; the threat is still the same. If you are in a high-risk group – please, please consider your health and stay home. Masks and sanitizing help, but they do not entirely remove the chances of contracting the virus.

Those who do venture out, I ask again that you please be patient and kind – especially with those who will be volunteering as ushers when we get back to Mass. The restrictions/reductions are meant to help maintain a safe environment for all.

We will keep you posted by email and on Facebook as to when this can start, but I think it's important to be informed and for you to have time to read everything carefully. Thanks so much for your ongoing support.

Fr. John