



## **Returning to Public Gatherings at Saint Monica Catholic Church: Phase I May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

My dear parishioners,

As Christians, we believe that Jesus is the vine and that we are the branches. Whoever abides in Christ and has Christ abide in him will bear much fruit, because without Him we can do nothing (see John 15:5). Jesus abides with us especially in the Eucharist, and nothing on earth can substitute for reception of the Holy Eucharist at Mass.

With this in mind, I share with you today Bishop Burn's plan to transition the Diocese of Dallas back to gathering together again for the celebration for the Eucharist and for other liturgical and parish events ([you may read a copy of his April 29<sup>th</sup> decree here](#)).

Taking into consideration the guidance of civil and health authorities, Bishop Burns has decided that this process will occur in phases. Phase I goes into effect on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and lasts through at least Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please read the following pages carefully, as they highlight our parish's implementation of Phase I of Bishop Burns' plan.

### **1. There will be no public celebration of Mass during Phase I.**

- a. Bp. Burns and Bp. Kelly will celebrate a Mass from St. Monica this weekend.
  - i. This Mass will be broadcast on Sunday, May 3 on KDFW Channel 4 at 11 AM and on KDFI Channel 27 at 12 PM.
  - ii. This replaces our "regular" 10 AM livestreamed Mass in English.
- b. On Sunday, May 10, livestreamed Sunday Mass will resume our previous schedule: 10 AM in English and 12 PM in Spanish.
- c. Your parish priests continue to celebrate Masses in private every day for the stipended Mass intentions.

### **2. Starting Monday, May 4, the church will be open Monday-Saturday from 9 AM-5 PM for private prayer.**

- a. Parishioners over the age of 65 and/or with underlying health conditions are considered "at-risk" and are strongly encouraged to remain at home.
- b. At-risk parishioners may continue to schedule confession, anointing of the sick, and Communion visits through the parish office.

### **3. Visitors to the church must adhere to safe social distancing protocols:**

- a. *Masks are required for all people inside the church.*
  - i. Throughout Phase I, visitors to the church must wear a mask whenever they are inside the church.



- ii. Those who choose not to wear a mask during Phase I may not enter the church but are welcome to pray outside.
  - b. *Social distancing will be enforced in the church:*
    - i. Throughout Phase I, the maximum capacity in the church is set at 200 people (approximately 25% of our regular capacity).
    - ii. Visitors to the church must keep 6 feet separation.
    - iii. Pews will be marked with these boundaries.
  - c. *Entrance to the church will be controlled.*
    - i. The only entrance into the church will be through the doors by the parish office that lead into Angel Hall.
    - ii. All other doors will remain locked (but may of course be used as emergency exits).
  - d. Twice a day, our dedicated cleaning staff will disinfect commonly touched surfaces in the church.
- 4. Special confession times begin Monday, May 4 and last throughout Phase I.**
  - a. Mondays and Fridays 10-10:30 AM; 2-2:30 PM; 4-4:30 PM
  - b. Saturdays 3:30-4:30 PM
- 5. Starting Monday, May 11, the parish office will reopen to visitors.**
  - a. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 9 AM-5 PM.
  - b. Those who wish to enter the office must wear a mask.
- 6. All parish meetings and activities through at least May 18 remain cancelled.**
- 7. Further communication will be sent out soon regarding updated schedules for Baptisms, First Holy Communions, and/or Confirmations.**

Brothers and sisters, please remember that *these measures are temporary*. Our bishop's goal—and my goal as your pastor—is to both stop the spread of the coronavirus and to return our parishioners to the public celebration of the Mass. In this time of transition, I ask for your prayers, your patience, and your cooperation. May our desire to return to Eucharistic communion fill us with Christian charity and with filial obedience to our bishop throughout this process. In all things, may we show through our example the difference Christ makes in our lives!

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.” (John 15:12).

In Christ,

Fr. Michael Guadagnoli



*Pastor*  
*St. Monica Catholic Church*