



## Returning to Public Gatherings at Saint Monica Catholic Church: Phase II May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

My dear parishioners,

The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Christian life because in the Eucharist we receive the Body of Christ and thus are joined to his Body, the Church. Nothing – not even watching Mass on television – can replace attending Mass in person, receiving the Holy Eucharist, and being built up into the Body of Christ.

With that in mind, I joyfully announce that on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, we will begin Phase II of the Diocesan Reopening Plan ([you may read a full copy of the Bishop’s May 18<sup>th</sup> decree here](#)). **In this phase, our parish will open for the public celebration of *daily* Mass.** Please note that public celebrations of weekend (Saturday/Sunday) Masses remain suspended during this phase.

I ask that you read this document carefully, as it details our parish’s implementation of Phase II of the Diocesan Reopening Plan.

- 1. Beginning Tuesday, May 26, Mass will be celebrated Monday-Friday at 6:45 AM**
  - a. There will be no public celebration of the 8 AM Mass during Phase II, as the diocese has limited each parish to one public celebration of Mass per day (Monday-Friday).
  - b. The church will close after the 6:45 AM Mass to allow for thorough cleaning. It will reopen at 9 AM for private prayer and scheduled confession times.
  
- 2. Church visitors must continue to adhere to safe social distancing protocols:**
  - a. *At St. Monica’s, masks are required for all people inside the church.*
    - i. Throughout Phase II, 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 II may not enter the church but are welcome to pray outside.
  - b. *Social distancing will be enforced in the church:*
    - i. Throughout Phase II, 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.
- 3. The church will be open Monday-Saturday from 9 AM-5 PM for private prayer.**
- 4. Special confession times continue through Phase II.**
  - a. Mondays 10-10:30 AM; 2-2:30 PM; 4-4:30 PM
  - b. Fridays 10-10:30 AM; 2-2:30 PM; 4-4:30 PM
  - c. Saturdays 3:30-4:30 PM
- 5. At-risk parishioners are strongly encouraged to remain at home.**
  - 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.
- 6. The parish office remains open 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.
- 7. Parish meetings and activities remain cancelled through Phase II.**

Brothers and sisters, as I wrote in my previous letter to you, these are *temporary measures* designed both to keep people safe and to allow us to return to the public celebration of the sacraments. As we prepare to gather together again for daily Mass, may the Eucharist strengthen our love for each other, because “love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8).

God bless you all – the priests of St. Monica’s look forward to seeing you soon!

In Christ,

Fr. Michael Guadagnoli  
*Pastor*  
*St. Monica Catholic Church*