

On May 5, 2020, in the late afternoon, the parishes of the Diocese of St. Petersburg received permission from Bishop Gregory Parkes, our Bishop, to invite the public, under specific circumstances, to the daily weekday Mass beginning on Monday, May 11th or soon after. At Espiritu Santo Catholic Church and School we have the relatively rare practice of celebrating three (3) daily Masses with separate funeral, wedding and Sick & Homebound Masses. This practice will continue, as it is a great blessing to our parish and to the world – at least for now. An 8 AM Mass will be open to the public in the Parish Center Monday - Friday. A second Mass will be livestreamed from the Church Monday – Saturday and a third Mass will be celebrated privately. The public is invited ONLY to the 8 AM Mass in the Parish Center.

The daily Mass will take place in the Parish Center (not in the church) where we can set up flexible seating. The chairs will be spaced 8 feet apart and the rows will be spaced 6 feet apart. We will not receive Communion from the Cup and there will be no Holy Water available. The sign of peace will be eliminated for now and we ask that you park your cars one space apart. Enter through the front or side doors only and you may leave from any of the exits. The Parish Center will open at 7:30 am in preparation for the 8 AM Mass. Jeff, our Director of Liturgy and Music, has graciously agreed to provide some music for these liturgical celebrations. The building can only be occupied up to 25% of its capacity. After these chairs are filled, the doors will be locked to stop any other admittance. You will receive further directions if you arrive for the Mass. Persons who are ill, vulnerable or elderly are encouraged to watch the Mass on livestream at 9 am and stay home. The livestream Mass at 9:00 am will continue Monday – Saturday. Fr. Len and Fr. Anthony will share these responsibilities. This Mass will be livestreamed from the Church. The livestream Mass is NOT open to the public.

The Rosary may be prayed in the Parish Center at 7:30 am or outside by the Marian Shrine observing all safe distancing requirements. We will be following all of the guidelines of the Diocese and health officials. The Daily Mass open to the public will begin on Thursday, May 14th at 8:00 AM. Please note that we must sanitize the church and Parish Center each day, so be respectful of our greatly reduced maintenance staff. I ask that you not give them any other requests, as they are overburdened already.

Sunday Masses at this time will be livestreamed at 10:30 am and are NOT open to the public. When they are open to the public, they will be taking place in the St. Anthony of Padua School Hall where flexible seating can be arranged. Funerals and Baptisms will take place in the Church under all the requirements and safety regulations now in place.

It is a great joy to continue to remember all of you in prayer. We miss you, but we are joined together spiritually. Please use the advice of your doctor and sound reasoning to determine if you are able to come and be physically present for the 8 am weekday Mass. Be safe and reasonable. You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask and bring your own sanitizers, although there will be some sanitizers available in both the Parish Center and church entrances. Remember to visit our website frequently (www.espiritusanto.cc) where you can find our bulletin and many articles that Fr. Len and the staff have published for your reflection.

On behalf of the entire Church and School, I wish to thank our “core parishioners” who have continued their financial support and prayerful support. Without this financial support, our parish cannot continue its mission. Much of the reopening of the parish will be determined based on the amount of financial support we are able to receive. The “new normal” will be quite different from the past, but we will survive and the Lord is with us. Know that you are loved and appreciated. Thank you for your faith and your goodness.

Together with you in ministry,

Father Len

Updated Mass Information

Monday – Friday – 8:00 AM Mass (with music and open to the public in the Parish Center)

Monday – Saturday – 9:00 AM (livestreamed from the Church and NOT open to the public)

Third Mass to be said privately at some time during the day

Sunday – 10:30 AM (livestreamed from the Church)

CHURCH/OFFICE HOURS

Church Hours

Monday – Friday 10 AM – 2 PM (private, individual prayer only)

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10 AM – 2 PM
