

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to discuss a few things concerning what may take place when public Masses resume.

As far as when public Masses will begin, the priests have not yet received any indication from Bishop Callahan when he will allow public Masses to resume. Eight dioceses around the country (where the Governors have given the green light) have begun to allow public Masses in some of their parishes, but with various changes and restrictions within the Mass.

The bishops of Wisconsin tend to act together, but I am not sure if they will do this concerning reopening public Masses, as the virus has hit harder in some places than others. So, the Wisconsin bishops may act independently.

Also how the Mass is celebrated MAY be much different for some months: the number of persons in the church may be limited with some having to be in their cars, no Precious Blood; no Sign of Peace; no altar servers or other persons in the sanctuary except the priest; no choir or singing; and the possibility of masks and/or gloves being required. All these items are a possibility.

In some places, the bishop has instructed that Holy Communion is to be being given out only after Mass has finished. People either church or in their cars would then receive at Holy Communion at certain locations. In this way people can receive and leave immediately. My main point is that Public Masses – including a First Communion Mass - MIGHT not be possible or MIGHT not be celebrated in a way we are accustomed to.

Also, the bishops that have begun to have public Masses so far have still removed the obligation to attend weekend Mass, so as not to pressure people who feel sick or who feel threatened by the virus to attend Mass.

I cannot commit with certainty to any Mass or type of Mass at this time, until I know what restrictions and changes Bishop Callahan may make concerning the celebration of public Masses.

Let us continue to pray for an end to this terrible scourge.  
Fr. Tom