

May 12, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

We announced at Masses last weekend that the Diocese of Kalamazoo is moving forward with inviting all parishioners back to Church beginning May 23, for the celebration of Pentecost. The General Dispensation from Sunday Mass, which has been in place for over a year, will expire on May 22/23, Pentecost weekend. Several other dioceses in the State of Michigan have already ended their General Dispensations. Bishop Bradley has issued a letter to the faithful with more information on the lifting of the dispensation. You can find a copy of this letter at <http://bit.ly/BPJPLetterMay2021>. A printed copy will be in our May 16 weekend bulletin. Bishop Bradley is creating a video that should be available by Friday, May 14, on the Diocesan website or their Facebook page. Please take a moment and read the Bishop's letter today and watch the video later this week for more information about the upcoming changes.

What does this mean for our parish at St. Catherine?

- 1) **All safety protocols remain in place:** Social distancing of six feet, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, and all the additional cleaning procedures before and after Mass will continue.
- 2) Overflow seating capacity in Marian Hall will continue if the main church is filled up. Please remember to arrive early so that our ushers can seat you.
- 3) Since the 11:00 am Sunday Mass has the largest attendance, once the Church is full, **we will have a second Mass available in the gym for the 11:00 am Mass time only.** This will help us accommodate the additional people who will attend the 11:00 am Mass.
- 4) With the second Mass in the gym at 11:00 am, the 9:00 am Mass will move back into the Church with overflow into Marian Hall. Both Mass changes will start next weekend on Pentecost, May 22/23.
- 5) We will continue to livestream the 4:00 pm Mass for those who are homebound.

During this time, we appreciate your patience as we welcome additional parishioners back. We are looking forward to seeing more of our friends return. As updated guidelines and protocols from the Diocese and the State of Michigan are issued in the following months, and as more people are vaccinated, we will follow the updated guidelines as they are issued. Thank you for your continued patience with us as we adjust to the changes as they come. We will do our best to keep you informed as we know more.

Sincerely,



Rev. Mark J. Vyverman  
Pastor