

Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish
Phase I: Re-Opening of Churches for Public Masses

INFORMATION SHEET

MASSES begin June 13th & 14th

Welcome! Bishop Sullivan has announced that all parishes in the Camden Diocese can open their churches for public masses beginning Saturday, June 13th. All parishes were given guidelines from the Diocese that should implement a plan to have seating capacity of 25% of church capacity, and strict social distancing. The transition in re-opening the churches during Phase I will not be easy. There are many things to adjust. These are changes that were needed to protect all of us. Please respect and keep these instructions to insure that everyone can worship safely.

How long will Phase I be in effect? At this time we do not know how long Phase I will be, but the Diocese will continue to rely on NJ State orders and mandates.

In Phase I do I have to attend mass? No. Bishop Sullivan has granted a dispensation to everyone in the Camden Diocese from the obligation of attending Mass during Phase I. This means that those with chronic health issues, those who have concerns about attending public gatherings and those 65 years old and over can stay at home instead of attending Mass. During Phase I, we will have live –stream the 10:30AM Mass each Sunday for those who cannot attend.

Will the Mass schedule stay the same? Yes

Saturday: 4:30PM and 6:30PM (Spanish)

Sunday: 8:30AM and 10:30AM

Daily Mass Monday-Friday 8AM

During Phase I, you can choose to attend the daily mass which normally has smaller attendance than the weekend masses.

How many people will be able to attend Mass? Will there be changes in where people can choose to sit?

The capacity for our church in Phase I is 130 people. In Phase I, the Diocese has directed parishes to plan for 25% capacity of the church building's total capacity. The Church can hold 530 people in the pews. The choir lofts and cry room are not counted.

Important: When the seating capacity has reached 130, we cannot allow any more people in the Church. Due to the social distancing restrictions in seating people, there may not be enough space in the pews before we reach the capacity of 130 people.

We have planned to seat people every 3 rows, and make sure that people are 6 feet apart in the pews. Families can sit close together. Those who attend by themselves need to be 6 feet away from others. We cannot have people standing in the back of the church or foyer during the mass.

Do I need a mask? Yes, everyone attending Mass is required to wear a mask (cloth masks are preferred) You are to keep the mask on during the Mass, except when receiving Communion.

How will things be different when people arrive at the Church? There are 2 ENTRANCE DOORS ONLY facing Camden Ave (see Doors A & C on Map). The Church doors will be open normally 30 minutes before mass begins to allow time to clean the church between Masses.

We ask that people wait in line on Camden Ave. You will need to follow the social distancing signs. We will have guides in front of the Church, guiding people into the Church.

It is important to have family members standing in line together, so that they can be seated together when entering the Church. This applies to couples as well

How will people be seated in the Church? Can people choose their place?

When people enter the Church, there are guides who will bring them to their seats.

Everyone will be required to use the hand sanitizers placed near the doors before going to their pews.

Important: During Phase I, there will be no Holy Water placed at the doors.

We need to accommodate families and those attending by themselves in different pews. We will be seating people from the front of the Church to the back pews. At this time, no one can choose to sit in area that they are used to.

In the past people have had the tradition of sitting with their extended family or friends. They would come to mass at different times but fill in the row. During Phase I we are seating people from the front to the back. No one will be able to save places in the pew for those coming later on.

We ask that once you are seated, please stay in in your row. During Phase I we ask people not to socialize before mass begins and after they leave the church. We will not have the candles available to light.

Will the restroom be available for use? The restroom in the foyer will be locked. One of the guides sitting in the last pew will have the restroom key in case of an emergency need. We understand that some people have a real need to use the restroom. We will make sure that when the bathroom is being used, only one person may stand in the foyer area. Children who need to use the bathroom must be accompanied by an adult.

What changes were made to the Mass? What will be different?

All the missalettes have been removed from the pews. We will have the readings for Mass printed in the bulletin that you will receive when entering. Due to copyright issues, hymns will not be printed in the bulletin.

The priest will process from the sacristy to the altar to begin Mass.

The Liturgy of the Word will be the same. However, we will not have the Offertory collection or the Offertory procession.

We will still have music at the Masses? Yes. We will have a musician and cantor but no choir at each mass. We understand that it may be different to sing with Masks on, but we encourage everyone to participate...

When will I be able to give my offering? There will be guides at the exit doors with collection boxes on stands. You can put your offering in the box as you leave.

Are we able to receive communion? When will it be during the Mass? Yes! The Eucharist is the central focus of the Mass. During Phase I, the Distribution of Communion will now be after the Priest gives the final blessing. The priest will consume the Eucharist at the normal part of the Mass then place the ciboria in the tabernacle. When the priest gives the final blessing, he will take his vestment off in the sacristy.

The priest, deacon or Eucharistic minister will go to the Communion station. At that time they will put on a face mask. There will be a stand at the station with hand sanitizer. The priest deacon or Eucharistic Minister can place the ciboria on the stand when they feel it necessary to wash their hands.

Will the Distribution of Communion be the same? No. To follow social distancing, we will not have the people come down the main aisle waiting to receive Communion. Two Communion Stations will be located at the ends of the side aisles near the sanctuary. A guide will lead people out from each row, making sure that everyone is 6 feet apart in the pew and in the aisle

Important: Please take your mask away from your face before you approach the Communion Station. You are not to be wearing any kind of gloves when receiving Communion in the hand. For health and safety reasons, we strongly encourage parishioners to receive Communion in your hand. If someone really wants to receive Communion on the tongue we ask them to wait until the end, this will give the priest deacon or Eucharistic Minister time to wash their hands after it.

When are people supposed to leave the Church? How and what doors do we use?

After each person receives the Eucharist, they are to leave the Communion station put their mask on and after a moment of brief prayer and walk towards the exit doors. The Doors D and E (see Map) are very close to the Communion Stations. People can also walk to the main aisle towards the main doors (Door B).

There will be guides near the exit doors with the collection boxes. Important to remember that when you exit the Church you are asked to go directly towards your cars. Please remember that social distancing is to continue while you are the Church property and sidewalks.

How and when will the Church be cleaned? The Church was thoroughly cleaned in April and May. Once we begin with Phase I, the Church will be cleaned immediately after each Mass (weekend and daily mass) We will have a team of volunteers that will sanitize the doors, handles, railings outside the church and doors, bathroom, and the pews inside the church..

Please note that although we do have some volunteers now for cleaning and guiding people to their seats, we will need more people to help. These are new duties that we have never had to do before. Please, consider contacting the Rectory for more information..

Will Confessions be held? Yes. During Phase I, Confessions will be held **Saturday from 1:30-2:30PM**. There will no longer be Confessions at 3:30-4:15 PM to allow volunteers to sanitize the Church.

Confessions are now being heard in the priest sacristy. In order to have strict social distancing there needs to be over 6 feet between the priest and the penitent. People will follow signs to the sacristy, keeping social distancing.

Mary, Queen of All Saints Parish



Dear Parishioners

I understand that these past months have been challenging for everyone in various ways. The changes that the pandemic caused came rather quickly in March and it affected people in different ways. Many have been forced to stay at home, not socialize with family and friends. Many people have lost their jobs and family had a loved one pass away. The pandemic has certainly affected our religious life, especially the receiving of the Eucharist. As your pastor I have missed celebrating Mass without all of the members of our parish sitting in the pews.

During these past months the church has been open for private prayer and confessions. I have been humbled by the sincerity of those who have come to church or stood in front of Mary's statue in silent prayer. I understand that now there is a "longing to be back in church, attending Mass and receiving the sacraments as we have always done before. However, at this time, we will have certain restrictions we must follow.

Bishop Sullivan has agreed to allow parishes in the Camden Diocese to Re-Open for Phase I, beginning the weekend of Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th. The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is celebrated that weekend, it is fitting that we can receive the Eucharist now.

We do not know how long Phase I will be, but the Diocese will continue to rely NJ state orders. Parishes need to follow strict guidelines that will change the seating capacity of the church, how we enter and exit the church, wearing masks in church, and the distribution of communion. Bishop Sullivan gave all the pastors the guidelines and with the help of dedicated parishioners we submitted the plan on May 29th. I understand that the guidelines will change all of us have attended Mas in the past.

Bishop Sullivan has granted a dispensation to the Camden Diocese from the obligation of attending Mass during Phase I. This means that those with chronic health issues, those who have concerns about attending public gatherings and those age 65 year and over can stay home at this time. During Phase I, we will have one live-streamed Mass each Sunday for those who cannot attend.

The seating capacity of the church building is presently **530 people**. We are allowed to plan for 25% capacity during Phase I. Thus **the seating capacity is 130 people**. We will be seating people every 3 pews. Families can sit together but those attending by themselves will need to sit 6 feet apart. Everyone attending is required to wear a face mask (cloth masks are recommended) There will be volunteer guides seating everyone who attends. No one can choose their place in the church. We will have **ENTRANCE ONLY** and **EXIT ONLY** doors for the church.

We will continue to have the regular weekend Mass schedule and we will also have Daily Mass Monday –Friday at 8am. During Phase I, rather than attending the weekend Masses you can choose to attend the daily Mass which normally has smaller attendance. The church will be open Monday- Thursday from 4-6PM for private prayer. Please take the time to visit the church during this time if you are unable to be in large crowds.

I ask that you read the enclosed Information Sheet several times. It can give a better idea of how to enter and exit the Church, the social distancing and seating plan, and the distribution of Communion which will be at the end of the Mass. I understand that the re-opening plan has a lot of information to take in and accept.

I am thankful to the many people who have supported the parish and food pantry over the past months. I am also thankful to those who have already volunteered to help during Phase I. However, the duties for the volunteers now include: guiding people to their seats and sanitizing the church after each Mass, which we have never needed to do before. I would like to have enough volunteers to form a couple of teams for each Mass during Phase I. I ask you to contact me as soon as possible and volunteer to help with these duties.

It is important to remember that the disciples had to adjust many changes after Jesus' death and Resurrection. They needed to rely on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to deal with the changes and trust that Jesus was with them I ask that you be open to the Holy Spirit during this transition of how we will be attending Mass.

I understand that many parishioners do not have internet access and may have more questions, please contact me at 856-662-2721. If you have internet access, you can contact me at maryqueenofallsaints@comcast.net. Also, we will continue to post information on the parish website www.maryqueenofallsaints.org

Sincerely

Fr. Ed Friel
Pastor