

Immaculate Conception Church

May 13, 2020

My Dearest Parish Family,

I have missed each and every one of you during this time of quarantine. I pray that you all have used this time to strengthen your faith and personal relationships with Our Lord and Savior. I have continued to pray for all of you, the Church and the safe re-opening of our parish so that we may once again be re-united as one in prayer for the public celebration of Mass.

It is with great joy that I am officially announcing the re-opening of Immaculate Conception Church for the celebration of Mass the weekend of May 30-31. We will celebrate Pentecost Sunday during our normally scheduled Mass times of Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The Rosary will be said at 3:30 p.m. prior to the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday. Weekday Masses will resume on Tuesday, June 2, 5:15 p.m. and Wednesday, June 3 at 12:10 p.m.

As we begin to slowly return to our 'new normal', we must be vigilant in our personal responsibilities to limit the risks of spreading COVID-19 to others. We **MUST** observe safe social distancing and good personal hygiene practices for our own safety and the safety of others.

With that being said, please carefully read the directives below as well as the directives outlined in the accompanying letter from Bishop Doerfler.

- ✝ Those who remain at greater risk are recommended to stay home and are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Prayerfully consider your safe return to Church.
- ✝ Church capacity will be limited due to social distancing guidelines. We ask that each family contact the parish office via telephone at 774-0511 or 396-5632 to reserve your seating no later than each Thursday prior to the upcoming weekend Masses. Your reservation must include the Mass time and number of family members attending so that we can plan effective social distancing for each Mass. This directive will remain in place until social distancing guidelines have been changed or lifted.
- ✝ To minimize exposure, parishioners will be permitted to enter and exit the Church via the main middle entrance or the side handicap entrance only. Doors will be propped open before and after Mass and hand sanitizer will be available and is required for use before entering the Church. If you have your own hand sanitizer, please bring it with you.
- ✝ Masks will be required by all while in the Church.
- ✝ We encourage you to use your home restroom prior to attending Mass to reduce risk and need for additional cleaning.

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- ✠ We will have music for each Mass, however, the choir will no longer gather until further notice. All hymnals and resource books will be removed from pews.
- ✠ There will be one communion line down the center aisle. Six foot social distancing will be observed (please use floor markers as an aid). Also, please use hand-sanitizer prior to receiving communion (it will be available at the time of communion).
- ✠ There will continue to be no contact during the Sign of Peace and Holy Water fonts will remain empty until further notice.
- ✠ Bulletins will be available at the end of each Mass at the main middle entrance and side handicap entrance. Please help yourselves to take one. Bulletins will not be distributed by ushers as to ensure safe social distancing.
- ✠ Sacrament of Reconciliation will resume on Saturday, May 30 from 11:00 a.m. to Noon with social distancing guidelines being observed. Instead of being seated inside the confessional, penitent will be seated directly outside confessional, with priest being inside, so that social distancing can be adhered to. Masks are required.
- ✠ It will be necessary for us to clean and sanitize the Church after each Mass and Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you are willing and able to volunteer for this task, please contact the parish office.
- ✠ At this time, the Church will remain closed at times other than Rosary, Mass and Sacrament of Reconciliation to help reduce the need for additional cleaning. You are welcome to utilize the Adoration Chapel, downtown, for times of personal prayer and adoration. Please adhere to their guidelines.
- ✠ Please contact the parish office for individual questions regarding funerals, baptisms and weddings.

As we progress, there may be changes. Please be patient as we work toward the common goal of full engagement once again.

For up-to-date parish information, please call the parish office at 774-0511 or visit our webpage at <https://dioceseofmarquette.org/icparishironmountain>.

I look forward to praying with you all in-person very soon.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



James A. Kaczmarek,
Reverend Monsignor, Pastor

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