



# Immaculate Conception Parish

10 Fellsway East  
Malden, Massachusetts 02148  
781-324-4941

May 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In the Easter season, as we focus on Christ rising from the grave, it is fitting that we recall our Risen Lord is always with us, especially in the most trying and difficult times. He has been with us through this worldwide pandemic, and He will be with us as we arise from it and strive to restore parish life.

Immaculate Conception Parish is making plans for restoring parish life in harmony with the State of Massachusetts and Federal directives. We have seen the efforts made locally and around the nation to help flatten the curve of this pandemic. Physical distancing and efforts to encourage good hygiene seem to be working in the State of Massachusetts. If we take seriously the need to continue hand washing, avoiding touching the face, practicing good physical distancing, staying home when not feeling well and implementing other precautions, we hope to avoid a possible rebound of COVID-19. The last thing we want to create is a resurgence of the pandemic that would cause more illness and require a reversal of our gradual progress.

We will begin moving toward the goal of full restoration of parish life with prudence. We hope to balance the very real spiritual needs of the faithful with our great concern for the physical wellbeing of our parishioners and the wider community.

As we move forward, we urge the faithful to keep in mind the following:

- Progress will be gradual and may at times be imperfect. Please be patient and kind with your priests and one another.
- The general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation continues.
- Parishioners who are vulnerable or feel safer by staying home are encouraged to do so, and are urged to make a spiritual communion by watching the Mass on Catholic TV.
- Attendance at Mass will be limited due to physical distancing, church capacity and other factors.
- Public places within our Church will be frequently cleaned and sanitized, but a risk remains.

Even with all precautionary measures taking place, it is important for individuals and families to take personal responsibility to protect themselves by adhering to physical distancing guidelines, and by following CDC guidelines for hand washing and hand sanitizer use, as well as recommendations regarding the use of masks or cloth face coverings while in public.

Immaculate Conception Parish will continue to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each day from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm in the rectory window of the second-floor porch facing our parking lot.

Together we look forward to a future beyond this pandemic. Let us remind one another:  
Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen! We trust He will be with us always.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Albert L. Capone



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET READY**

We need teams of at least 12 people for each Mass to help lead us through the restart process and assist us to follow the guidelines required by Massachusetts and the Archdiocese of Boston.

It is imperative that we adhere to these guidelines for the safety and wellbeing of all who are attending Mass.

**Please, if you can help us in the restart process, join us for a meeting on Wednesday Evening, May 27 at 7:00 PM in the main Church.**

## **WHEN WILL WE RESUME MASS?**

Immaculate Conception Parish will resume the celebration of Mass on the weekend of May 30 - 31, the Feast of Pentecost with the 4:00 Mass on Saturday, May 30th and the 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM Masses on Sunday, May 31. Daily Mass will be celebrated again beginning Monday, May 25th at 6:30 AM in the upper Church.

Cardinal Seán continues to leave the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation in place for the foreseeable future. The Cardinal and the priests of our parish strongly encourage people in vulnerable populations, especially the elderly and those with complicating physical conditions, to continue to watch Mass from their homes on Catholic TV.

## **GUIDLEINES FOR WORSHIPERS AT MASS**

- **Parishioners will be allowed to enter 15 minutes prior to each Mass.** We ask that you wait in your cars or line up along the sidewalk on Pleasant Street, keeping social distance of six feet apart.
- **Only one entrance of the Church will be open.** The main entrance on Pleasant Street will be used to enter and exit the Church for Sunday and Daily Mass. Parishioners will be seated by members of the Restart Mass Team, being seated as we do on an airplane, beginning in the front of the Church, then proceeding to the rear.
- The elevator will be available only for those with special needs - a Restart Mass Team member will assist you in the elevator process.
- All members of the congregation need to wear masks, with a few exceptions: Children under the age of two should not wear masks. Parents should judge for children between the ages of two and five whether they should wear a mask.
- Please if possible, we ask parishioners to please bring your own hand sanitizer to use before and after Mass
- The priest and others with him in the sanctuary do not need to wear masks in the sanctuary as long as strict socially distancing is maintained. They do have to wear masks when assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion.
- There will be no social gatherings either before or after Mass. All parishioners must exit immediately after Mass in a timely manner. The Church will be cleaned before the next Mass begins.
- There will be no processions at the Masses, no entrance procession, no offertory processions. The priest will enter from the sacristy.
- There will be no altar servers.
- The Holy Water fonts will remain empty.

- There will be no public access to the sacristy while the church is open.
- Hymnals and missalettes have been removed
- Congregational singing will not be allowed in these early days. The organist and cantor will be with us from the choir loft at regular designated Masses.
- There will be one lector for each Mass seated in the sanctuary with proper social distancing.
- There will be no passing of the basket for the Offertory Collection. Instead, there will be a basket at the entrance for people to place their offering.
- There will be no holding of hands for the Our Father.
- There will be no invitation to participate in a sign of peace.

### **FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

- The priests only will distribute Holy Communion at all the Masses. There will be a plexiglass shield at each communion station. The communicants and the priest will wear masks.
- Neither the priest nor the communicants should wear gloves during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Congregants who are not coming forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing should still get out of their pews at the beginning, so that no one will have to climb over anyone else.
- The priest will have a table next to him with hand sanitizer.
- The priest will hold the consecrated host over the communicants' outstretched hands and drop the host into their hands without touching their hands.
- Communicants will receive the consecrated host in their hands, step to the side, lower their mask, consume the host, replace their mask, and return to their pew.
- In the case of unintentional contact, the priest will sanitize his own hands immediately.
- There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood.
- **Parishioners may well decide not to receive Holy Communion if they feel the risk is too high, and that decision will be honored and respected.**
- We will return to our pews slowly as directed, keeping 6 feet apart to avoid contact with other people.
- There will be tape on the floor to show where to stand as we approach to receive communion. There also will be tape on the floor to show where to stand to demask and consume the host.
- The Congregation will leave the church exiting row by row directed by the trained volunteers, so as to allow for cleaning the church before the next Mass.

***Please be patient and kind with your priests,  
the Restart Mass Team members and one another.***

***May God be with us!***