



# THE CHURCH OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

August 1, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Despite continued concerns and some restrictions, we are now resuming a more normal schedule for Mass and the celebration of the sacraments. Please note that we have been ALLOWED to resume limited, public worship PROVIDED we are able to conform to the guidelines of both the commonwealth and the diocese.

Daily Mass is scheduled Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m. The church will be open at 7:00 a.m. on those days and close at 11:30 a.m. Seating is available in the main aisle pews only in the front sections and several pews in the rear only.

Bishop Bambera has emphasized four basic principles:

1. The obligation to attend Sunday/Holyday Mass is suspended for the foreseeable future. Therefore if you are sick, have a fever, an underlying health condition, or are at a vulnerable age, DO NOT COME TO CHURCH.
2. Everyone MUST WEAR A MASK in church except to receive communion.
3. You must sit in a DESIGNATED SEAT AS DIRECTED to observe social distancing.
4. The church must be properly SANITIZED after each Mass.

A livestreamed Sunday Mass is now broadcast from our church at 8:00 a.m. This can be seen on our Facebook page live or watched anytime thereafter. Beginning on August 8, 2020 we will resume the Saturday vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. provided we have the needed volunteers for hospitality and sanitizing. Please note that due to scheduled weddings and the sanitizing requirements, the Saturday Mass at 4:00 WILL NOT BE CELEBRATED ON SEPTEMBER 26, OCTOBER 10 AND DECEMBER 12, 2020.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR EACH WEEKEND MASS (Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.), one group of sanitizers and one group of hospitality ministers. Sign-up is done on the parish website. You can assist with both groups.

CONFESSIONS will be offered in the vestibule at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings. I will sit six feet behind a screen; a kneeler will be in front of the screen for the penitent. Enter the church on the rectory side, wait inside in the back of the church; to go to confession, enter the vestibule at the door near the restroom, and immediately exit the church after making your confession through the Albert St. side door. I will ring a bell to indicate to the next person to come in.

FUNERAL MASSES will be allowed but all the restrictions and requirements must be observed especially regarding wearing masks and seating only in designated areas with social distancing maintained. More detailed instructions will be given to funeral directors. A limitation on the number of those attending the funeral Mass may be required.

BAPTISMS are celebrated for one baby and family at a time. The normal time is at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays. We will schedule a baptism for any mutually convenient Sunday. Limited seating will only be available in the area of the baptismal font for those in need, since the pews will have been sanitized following the 10:30 Mass. Limiting attendance to immediate family members or very close friends is most appreciated.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- 1. USE HAND SANITIZER AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.**
- 2. SIT ONLY IN DESIGNATED SEATS AS DIRECTED.**
- 3. MASKS MUST BE WORN IN CHURCH; ONLY REMOVED TO RECEIVE COMMUNION.**
- 4. RECEIVE COMMUNION ON THE HAND NOT TONGUE.**
- 5. DO NOT COME TO MASS IF SICK, HAVE A FEVER, ARE AT RISK OR VULNERABLE BECAUSE OF MEDICAL CONDITION OR AGE.**
- 6. THE CHURCH MUST BE SANITIZED AFTER EACH MASS AND WILL BE LOCKED.**

With thanks for your continued patience, understanding and cooperation, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Pratico