

Saint Agnes Covid-19 Message - Church Plan

May 21, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

It is with great joy, but some apprehension that I plan to welcome you home. I have missed you all very much but truly believe that the stay at home order was well advised and still believe that the encouragement of our government to have us stay at home is important. With no cure or vaccine for the virus many of us are still at risk and gathering in large number is not prudent. The government has restricted our capacity to 40% of our occupancy. Because of its small size we will not open Saint Patrick's Chapel at this time but will have their weekly Mass at Saint Agnes on Saturday Evening. I am grateful that Bishop has extended his dispensation from attending Mass to keep us safe. Anyone not feeling well or compromised should not attend. Government regulation encourages those over the age of 65 to stay home as well.

With that stated, I have been making preparations to comply with all State, Local and Diocesan regulations to open and will do so on Pentecost Weekend May 30/31. (Masses will be 4 & 5:30pm on Saturday and 8am and 10am on Sunday). (Daily Mass will be Monday-Friday 8:30am). Due to the likeliness that our numbers will exceed those allowed by law it will be necessary to PRE-REGISTER FOR ANY WEEKEND MASS. To do so please visit our website (stagnescc.com) and follow link for the Mass you wish to attend. If you do not have the ability to register online please either call me (413.684.0125) and leave a message with your name, desired Mass and number attending or email me with the same information (frcmal@gmail.com).

Mass will continue to be live streamed. If you are attending in person, please arrive early as seating individuals and families may take some time due to social distancing requirements. All individuals must enter the Church through the main entrance and exit by the side doors. Many of our pews will be closed to seating and others will require 6 feet of distance between individuals. Immediate household families may sit together. All those coming to Mass will be required to wear a face mask. Bringing your own hand sanitizer is encouraged. Missalettes will no longer be provided. Those who want to take home a copy will be welcome to do so but cannot remain in the Church after Mass. Bathrooms will not be available.

What should you expect? You will be required to wear a face mask. You will be required to social distance; Communion will be distributed in your pew and be in the hand only. There will be no holy water in the fonts. There will be no sign of peace. This will be an unusual way for us to worship and will ask for your patience and understanding during these most unusual of times as we stay safe.

I am also so grateful for your generosity and encourage continued Sacrificial Giving to the parish by use of Parish Envelopes in person or by mail, or parish online giving. Our food pantry is making extra efforts to help those in need. If you find yourself in need or know someone who has been adversely affected by Covid-19 and in need of assistance to please contact me at the rectory. The number of Lectors and Eucharistic ministers will be limited. There will be no Altar Servers or Choir members at this time. If you want to volunteer as an usher or can help clean the Church after Mass, please contact me. We are also looking for volunteers to operate our live-streaming and multi-media equipment.

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Finally, we will be introducing an on-line communication tool called Flocknote with a subscription to Word on Fire. There is no cost to sign up for this tool but will allow me to better communicate with you and push some great Catholic material to enrich your life. To sign up, visit our website and follow the link to register or register by text by texting 845-76 as the phone number and in the text, field enter our keyword which is stagnescc.

Be safe and stay well. Please pray for me as I pray for you. With best wishes, I am, sincerely,

Fr Chris Malatesta, Pastor