

Dear Parishioners of St. John Neumann,

Several weeks ago, Bishop Vasquez released a pastoral letter indicating that the Temporary Protocols for the Celebration of the Sacraments and the temporary dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will both be rescinded effective next Sunday, 23 May, the Solemnity of Pentecost. As your pastor, I joyfully invite you back to Sunday Mass, where we are nourished by Word and Sacrament.

Since the public celebration of Mass resumed in May 2020, I know the parish has undertaken efforts to promote health and safety while persevering in our fundamental responsibility to worship God. I am grateful for your cooperation and generosity over the past year as the parish has navigated the turbulent waters of this stressful and dynamic situation.

I recognize that some of you may still have particular concerns as the dispensation and protocol are rescinded, so I offer the following guidance and instruction which will take effect on Pentecost:

1. Facemasks and social distancing will not be required in the central body of the church (the nave). **However, in the two side areas (the transepts) of the church, facemasks will be required and social distancing will be observed.** Please do not sit in these two sections without a facemask. There will be signage in place by way of reminder.
2. Holy Communion will be distributed according to the pre-pandemic custom. However, we will not be resuming the distribution of the Precious Blood at this time. You may present yourself to receive Holy Communion either on the hand or on the tongue.
3. Holy Water will again be available in the fonts; holy water is a sacramental and one is not obliged to make use of it.

I am proud of the many and various efforts and diligence that have allowed us to safely celebrate the Sacraments, provide virtual religious education, and resume some of our ministries in-person. I am also grateful for your incredible financial generosity over the past year which has helped us offset the detrimental effects of the pandemic.

By way of conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to the staff and members of our parish for the kindness and support you have shown to me since I arrived in January. As we emerge from the pandemic, I joyfully welcome everyone back and look forward to meeting more of our parishioners.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Dean



Saint John Neumann Catholic Church

Church Map, Ground Floor

