



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH  
4556 TELEGRAPH ROAD | ST. LOUIS, MO 63129

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR  
314.487.5736 X106 | ANTHONYYATES@ARCHSTL.ORG

May 16, 2020

Dear St Francis of Assisi Parish Family,

During these challenging times, we turn to our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother in prayer, continuing to trust that our Heavenly Father will take care of us. Over these past weeks, we have been guided by our Shepherd, Archbishop Carlson, as to how to best protect ourselves and others from this virus, while still making opportunities available for time with Our Lord. While it has been difficult and different for us all, we now find ourselves at the next stage of encountering this pandemic.

**Archbishop Robert Carlson has announced that parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis are permitted to begin resuming public Masses on Monday, May 18, at the discretion of each individual parish pastor. After much prayer and discussion over all the strict safety measures that would be required, I have decided that St Francis of Assisi Parish will offer public Masses again starting May 18 during the weekday at 7:45 a.m. only and on the weekends at 4 p.m. Saturday evening and 7, 9, 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings. All Masses will be in church and will be live streamed.**

Caring for both our physical and spiritual health go hand-in-hand, and the health, safety and overall well-being of the people of the Archdiocese is Archbishop Carlson's first priority as well as mine. It is important to first say something about your participation at Mass.

**The general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will remain in place for all Catholics of the Archdiocese until further notice, as many individuals continue to have concerns for the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones.**

This means that you are **not** obligated or required to go to Mass on Sunday just because we are resuming public Masses. You should not feel guilty if you decide to continue to stay home and watch Mass online. Also, anyone who is ill, symptomatic, or has been exposed to someone else with the corona virus within 14 days should stay home. Also, if you just decide that you are not ready to go back out into society that is fine too. In addition, remember that you are not required to receive Holy Communion and making a Spiritual Communion can be just as efficacious and grace filled for your soul. So please continue to make this spiritual practice a part of your day.

As this is an ever changing situation, I will continue to monitor how Mass attendance is and make changes accordingly. I ask for your patience as we move ahead in the next few weeks. We will have to make adjustments. I know I will not be able to meet everyone's expectations, but I feel this is the best way at this point for me to offer Mass safely for our parishioners. We will still be together to celebrate the Eucharist and you will be able to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. So I ask for your continued understanding and prayers as I make the decisions necessary for our Parish. Thank you for your continued support of the Parish both spiritually and financially. It is a blessing to serve such a wonderful community.

Asking God's blessing upon you, I am,  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Anthony R. Yates".

Fr. Anthony R. Yates  
Pastor