

June 26, 2020

Dear Parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Church.

JOYFUL NEWS –MASSES WILL RESUME NEXT WEEK!

WEEKDAY MASSES RESUME JULY 1

WEEKEND MASSES RESUME JULY 4

Thank you for your patience and support! At long last we will be able to resume in-person Mass beginning July 1st! Let us rejoice and be glad!



Places of worship may now congregate at 30% capacity. For our parish that means 100 people may attend Mass, if everybody wears a mask so that we can protect one another.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR JULY

As of July 1st our Mass times in July will be:

Monday-Friday 9am, Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am.

Please note that we will not have daily adoration, we will not have Wednesday devotions and Mass at 4:30pm and we will not have Saturday morning Masses until the situation is normalized.

WHAT IF I AM OVER 65 OR IMMUNE-COMPROMISED?

We encourage everyone to adhere to the Ottawa Public Health guidelines which advise that if you are 65 and older, have a chronic condition or have a compromised immune system you should limit time outside the home as you may be at higher risk of developing complications. Please remember that **Sunday obligation is suspended until further notice** so it is not mandatory that you return to Mass at this time. Please stay safe. If you do decide to attend you might prefer coming to a weekday Mass where it is less crowded.

DO I NEED TO REGISTER TO ATTEND MASS?

You do not need to register. Entrance to the Church will be on a first-come, first-served basis up to 100 people per Mass. **Please be patient – we do not wish to turn anyone away but we are limited to 100 people.** If you are unable to enter please come back for the next Mass or try a weekday Mass. **As of July 1st we hope to livestream one of the weekend Masses. More details will follow.**

HOW DO I PREPARE TO COME TO MASS?

- **Please stay home** if you exhibit any of the symptoms of flu or COVID19 including fever, sore throat, coughing, sneezing.
- **Please check your temperature** before you come for Mass, if it is above 37.8°C, stay home!
- **You must wear a mask or face covering** when you attend and you will be asked to sanitize your hands when you enter. Sanitizer will be available at the entrance and exit doors.
- Please do not bring prayer books, prayer cards or any printed material. When you enter the Church please try to avoid touching any surfaces other than the area where you are seated.

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- **Please do not come more than ½ hour before Mass.** The doors will only open before Mass when all volunteers are in place. **Entry to all weekday and weekend Masses as of July 1st will be from the main Church doors only.**

CONFESSION

As of July 1st confession will resume Monday-Friday and Saturday afternoon ½ hour before Mass. Since the reconciliation room is small, please wear a mask/face cover to protect yourself and the clergy. At this time, behind the screen is the only option (the extra chair will be removed). If you cannot kneel, you can stand, or arrange to have Fr. Bosco hear your confession outside at the shrine. The clergy hearing confession will sanitize the area after each confession.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT MASS?

You will notice many changes when you return. We want to keep each other safe. We are trying to minimize the need for movement – this will cut down on the spread of germs and reduce the amount of surface areas which need to be sanitized between Masses.

For all Masses **entry will be through the main church doors only**, please wait on the markers which will be placed on the pavement. **Exit will be through St Joseph's door (side lobby) and side door near our church sign. Please wait until you are instructed to exit.**

There is only one washroom which is for emergency use only.

Weekend Masses will be shortened (approximately 30-40 minutes) to allow for time to sanitize the Church between Masses. There will be no procession. There will be no music. You will be shown to your seat by a volunteer, and immediately after Mass you will be directed to the appropriate exit door. Unfortunately at this time there is no opportunity for remaining after Mass to say prayers, light candles or visit with friends. The vigil lights (candles) will not be available at this time. If you want to have holy water please contact Fr. Bosco.

The Church will need to be locked after you leave so that our volunteer cleaning crew has time to properly sanitize all surfaces in preparation for the next Mass. Since time is of the essence we need to reduce the number of contact surfaces to facilitate the speedy cleaning between Masses. **Kneelers will not be accessible during this time**, if you are unable to stand for any length of time, please feel free to sit. Until we have enough volunteers, this temporary measure will be made, as we have only limited time between Masses.

- Hymn books and missals have been removed – there will be no music and parishioners are asked not to sing at this time. There will be no paper bulletin, instead it is posted to our website.
- The collection basket will not be passed around, instead you are asked to deposit your donation in the tube near the Usher's Room when you enter, or the tube near St Joseph's statue when you exit. Tubes will be clearly marked.

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- Seating will be blocked off to allow for physical distancing (families may sit together in specially marked areas). **You will be shown to your seat and you must sit where directed.**
- Please follow the directions of the Ministers of Hospitality. They have clear instructions on where people must be seated. You may not be able to sit in your “usual spot” – please be patient as we slowly re-open in the safest way possible.
- The Sign of Peace will be offered by a simple bow of the head towards your neighbour.
- There will be new directions for receiving communion which will be distributed in the hand only, with the host only (no communion on the tongue, no consecrated wine). At weekend Masses, the Presiding clergy will come to the worshippers by the centre aisle while the extra-ordinary minister will give communion to those at the edges of the side aisle. Please remain in your pew and stand when the priest or minister comes to you.
- It is extremely important that a face covering be worn, especially at the time of communion.

WHEN WILL THINGS GO BACK TO “NORMAL”?

For now, on an interim basis, all these measures must remain in place to ensure your safety. It may take some time for things to feel “normal” again, but in the meantime we want to avoid further outbreaks and we want to continue to be able to celebrate Mass together in person. For now, this is what must be done.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST AT EVERY WEEKEND MASS IN JULY. CAN YOU HELP?

In order to proceed with Masses as of July 1st, and in order to be able to offer all the regular scheduled weekend Masses, we are looking for the following volunteers:

- People to count attendees to make sure we do not exceed the 100 limit
- People to spray hand sanitizer on attendees as they enter
- People to bring attendees to their seats, and to direct them to the appropriate exit door following Mass
- Interim Sacristans to prepare and clean vessels before and after Mass
- People to sanitize the Church in between Masses

Training is provided for all roles. Please contact Fr Bosco at pastor@fatimaparish.ca or 613-722-7661x3 if you can help.

WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

A sincere thank you for your co-operation and patience as we all work together to keep each other safe. If everyone does their part then we can hope for a quicker end to the need for these measures. We rejoice that we will once again be able to worship together in person, even if it is different.

WHEN WILL THE OFFICE RE-OPEN?

The Parish Office remains closed until further notice. Office staff continue to work from home. For office-related needs, we encourage you to contact us by e-mail or phone. Irene will check messages daily. If you have any needs please let us know and we can direct you to the appropriate resource.

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Here is our contact information:

Parish Website: www.fatimaparish.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OLFottawa/

Parish Office: 613-722-7661x2 or info@fatimaparish.ca

Fr. Bosco Wong: 613-722-7661x3 or pastor@fatimaparish.ca

HOW CAN I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PARISH?

I wish to thank all those who have signed up for regular monthly donations and those who have mailed their donation or dropped it off through the mail slot at the front door of the Rectory.

Our parish depends exclusively on the on-going generosity of your donations to maintain our operations. Various ways can be considered to continue your financial support.

1. Cheques may be mailed to: Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 153 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2A 3T8. Donations may also be dropped through the mail slot at the front door of the Rectory.
2. If you would like to donate by credit card or if you would prefer to donate on-line please visit our website www.fatimaparish.ca and click on the "Donation" tab.
3. Many parishioners also take advantage of our automatic pre-authorized monthly donation option – via credit card or through your bank. Check the "Donation" tab for a copy of the form.

Your continued prayerful and financial support is much appreciated – thank you!

As your pastor I am still available in the Rectory. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything. I shall keep you in my prayers, including daily Masses which I am able to celebrate. I also pray daily for all the victims of the coronavirus, especially those in long-term health facilities and their families, as well as the health care workers who make sacrifices and keep us healthy on the frontline! **Fr. Bosco**

SCAM ALERT: An e-mail scam targeting members of Catholic churches and institutions across Canada is active in the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. In some places, the scam is transmitted by text messages. Typically, someone purporting to be a priest – or even a bishop – sends an e-mail with a plea for electronic gift cards, notably untraceable iTunes gift cards, to be sent to another address so that they may be given to someone in need or used for a fundraising event. In some cases, the scammers take the act a step further: they ask the victim to scratch the back of the cards and give them the revealed PIN to allow them to access the cash value. If you receive such an e-mail message or text, confirm it is genuine before responding in any way, it is likely a scam.

Exercise caution when checking e-mail messages. Visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/report-scam-or-fraud> for more cautions. If you have been targeted and purchased gift cards, try to cancel them as soon as possible. Ask for a refund or an exchange for new cards issued. Report the theft to police and spam@fightspan.gc.ca.

You have received this message because you provided us with your e-mail address. If you would prefer not to receive further communications please reply to this message with the Subject "Unsubscribe".