

## Mass & Confessions Update June 5, 2020

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Dear Parish family,

I'm happy to give a positive report back-on the excellent health of your priests. After testing negative for the coronavirus, Fr. Clark and I are about to complete our quarantine, without the development of any symptoms at all.

Accordingly, our complete Cathedral Mass and Confessions schedule will resume, as normal, starting tomorrow afternoon (Saturday, June 6) with the 4pm confessions. The 6:30am mass will be public tomorrow but there will not be an 8:15am mass.

Please note that, on account of high summer temperatures, Confessions can no longer be heard in the church parking lot, but will from now on be heard in the adoration/bishops' chapel – so that everyone can benefit from the AC.

One penitent at a time will be admitted to the chapel (separated more than 6 feet from the priest), while awaiting penitents may line-up, 6 feet apart from one another, along the corridor leading to the Bl. Sacrament Chapel in the Cathedral.

To help with social distancing, the adoration sign-in book will be moved to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel prior to Saturday's confessions. Adorers may enter the church through the main doors while the church is open. After hours, you may enter the church through the door with the combination lock.

Please note that the general dispensation from the Sunday Obligation remains in force. Parishioners are completely free to decide whether to come to Mass or not; or to come to Mass on a week-day, just as well as on Sundays.

Holy Communion is distributed after Mass, to allow your priests to mask-up and use hand-sanitizer before and after. Communicants should approach single-file, 6 feet apart, and present at the communion rail, 6 feet apart.

A special thank you to Msgr. Daniel Seiker for ensuring that our Cathedral has been able to offer Mass publicly every day during this period, without interruption.

Thanking you all very sincerely for the support of your prayer and assuring you of a constant remembrance in our own prayer.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

Fr. Wylie, Rector

## Update as of June 1, 2020

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Dear Cathedral Parish Family,

As a follow-up to my notification to the parish, last Friday, that we'd just learned a visiting priest from Philadelphia, who was present at our Ordinations on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, had contracted the coronavirus: I am happy to bring you the good news that Fr. Clark and I have both tested **negative** for COVID-19.

Everyone else who had exposure to the visiting priest during his visit to Lincoln has also tested **negative**. In all likelihood, therefore, he only contracted the virus during or after his return to the East Coast.

Nevertheless, in consultation with our Chancery, Father Clark and I shall complete a full 14-day period of quarantine recommended by health directives, during which, we will remain exclusively in the rectory.

Our **church remains open**, therefore, for adoration and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Fortunately, thanks to the kind services of Fr. Coulter and Msgr. Seiker, we have been able to continue offering the holy Mass at Cathedral every day during this time. This will continue.

Please be advised, therefore, that holy **Mass** will be offered publicly at **5pm every day this week, Monday through Saturday. Tuesday** (tomorrow) is the only exception, when Msgr. Seiker will offer the Requiem Mass after the Rosary at **10 am** for the funeral of +Arthur Wiater.

Drive-through **confessions will also be available Wednesday at 4pm and Saturday at 4pm** in the church parking lot.

Only if Fr. Clark and I continue to show no sign of any symptoms by the conclusion of this period will we **resume our usual parish schedule of Masses this coming Sunday**.

We are both very grateful for all your prayers. Let's just say: I've never been happier to fail a test.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,  
Father Wylie, Rector

## **Update as of May 29, 2020**

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Beloved parishioners,

Cathedral has just been informed that one of the visiting priests from Philadelphia, at last Saturday's ordination, this afternoon tested positive for COVID-19.

Although medical experts advise the risk of exposure is slight, in order to maintain Cathedral's highest standards of health and safety, Frs. Clark and Wylie have no choice but to refrain from any further public interactions until their tests are returned negative.

Please note that all masses and confessions must be immediately suspended at Cathedral, excepting the Saturday 6:30am Mass and the 9am Sunday Mass, which will be offered by Fr. Coulter and Msgr. Seiker, respectively, who were not exposed.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience and hope you understand that this is a decision warranted by an abundance of caution for your well-being.

God bless and protect you all!

Fr. Wylie, Rector

## **Guidelines for Resumption of Public Mass as of May 11, 2020**

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Beloved Parish Family,

What a great joy awaits us as we resume public Masses at Cathedral starting next Monday, May 11th!

As much as you have missed being present at the sacraments, be assured that your priests have missed your presence all the more. I wanted to send you some information about forthcoming Masses, so that the whole parish is properly informed and reassured of their safety here at Cathedral.

Firstly, daily Masses will resume according to the usual parish calendar. All Masses will be held at the high altar and no servers/acolytes/lectors/greeters/choir/cantors/offertory will be employed at this time.

Secondly, the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation remains in force, so that endangered parishioners feel no pressure to come to church and so that parishioners can come to Mass any day of the week, rather than everybody attempting to come on Sundays.

Elderly persons and those with compromised health – as well as those in contact with such persons – should NOT come to church at this time. Those who have any fears or doubts about the reception of communion are perfectly entitled to remain in their pews and make an act of spiritual communion, instead.

It should be possible on Sundays to come to church without touching any surfaces, since the ushers will open and close the main doors and sanitize door handles after use.

Hymnals and missalettes are removed from all the pews. Collection baskets will not be circulated but left in prominent places for you to deposit your own offerings. Hand sanitizer bottles and Clorox wipes will be available, and those who have to spare at home are asked to bring theirs with them for additional cleaning.

Alternate pews will be taped off so that families can sit with the appropriate 6 feet social distancing. There will be no sign of peace exchanged. COVID-19 regulations currently in force have not required us to insist on the use of face-masks, but we will leave that to your own prudential judgment.

Communion will be distributed at Masses but communicants will approach the communion rail in single file, 6 feet apart, and position themselves at the rail, 6 feet apart. Your priests are in optimal health and exercise rigorous hygiene.

Should we find that the demand for places exceeds the available space, additional chairs will be arranged in the vestibule; and if necessary, we will explore seating the overflow in rectors' hall downstairs, with a live-feed projected on the screen and a priest who will bring communion to those seated there.

Once again, we have 24 Masses at Cathedral each week, so do not feel in any way obligated to come only to one of the 6 Sunday Masses, but avail yourselves of any of the week-day Masses, as an alternative. We have a large church and I am confident there will be space for everyone if we plan prudently.

I can't tell you how much we are looking forward to being together again around the altar of the Lord! A special blessing this Sunday for all our Mothers. Please know how close you are to our hearts of prayer and how cognizant we are of the amazing ways in which you are fulfilling your vocations in these difficult times.

God bless and protect us all!  
Father Justin Wylie, Rector

**Update as of May 4, 2020**

Click the link below for a video update from Father Wylie. You should be able to watch even if you don't have a Facebook account.

<https://www.facebook.com/497205203684313/posts/3732544326817035/>