

Welcome back everyone to St Gabriel Church!

As we are re-opening our church this week, I would like to request that all parishioners who are considering coming to the church for Mass, please, review the letter from Bishop Crosby that is posted on our website: <http://www.saintgabrielchurch.com>.

Below is a summary of how things will work specifically at our parish. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

1. The week of 16-20 of June (Tuesday to Saturday) we follow our coronavirus schedule: 12pm Rosary and 12.30pm Mass.
2. Beginning from June 20th Saturday evening we will follow the following schedule of Masses for weekends: 5pm Saturday English Mass, Sunday: 8am English, 9.30am Polish, 11am English, 12.30pm Polish.
3. After Sunday 21st we come back to the normal schedule of weekday Masses: Polish Mass every day Monday – Friday at 6.30pm and 9am on Saturday, English Mass Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8am, Tuesday at 9am.
4. For Weekday Masses Parishioners will enter through the right front entrance of the church (Parkway Drive), which will be open so you don't have to touch the door. For seating, please, use only the pews on the right hand by the windows.
5. For Sunday Masses all three front doors will be open and you can seat in all rows of pews in places marked for seating. Please, follow the instructions of our ushers.
6. Please don't use any side doors neither for entering nor for exiting.
7. An usher will ask you for your name and telephone number before you enter the building. This is to help keep track of who is attending each Mass, in the case that someone tests positive for COVID-19 in the future and we need to contact those who were present with them at Mass.
8. An usher will lead you to your designated seat, which will be marked with a sign. Those who arrive first will be seated closest to the front, and those coming later will fill in the pews behind from front to back. Therefore you will not be able to choose your own seat.
9. There will be 2 people/pew, unless a family from the same household is attending in which case they can have a maximum of 5-6 people from that household sharing a pew (please see the posters showing the seating arrangements).
10. The Crying Room, the Sanctuary of St Therese of Lisieux, and the Parish Centre will be closed for the time being. The sacristy is open only to the priests, sacristans, and musicians. The choir loft balcony is closed. Please also refrain from touching any of the statues, crosses, pictures, etc.
11. The washroom at the back of the church will be open, but please use it only if absolutely necessary. These washrooms will be sanitized after each Mass, along with the pews that were in use.
12. All hymnals, pamphlets, etc. have been temporarily removed from the church to minimize the amount of contact areas. The musicians will do their best to select hymns that the congregation is familiar with. Please be sure to take any missals, etc. that you bring from home back with you after Mass.

13. You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask throughout the entire Mass, except for when you are about to receive Holy Communion. Please be sure to make use of the hand sanitizer that is provided at each entrance on your way into the building.
14. On weekdays Communion will be distributed on the right side by the Tabernacle. You are asked to return to your pew through the main aisle. Please keep the 2 meter distance by following the signs on the floor. The people from the back come first for the Communion, then those closer to the front.
15. On Sundays Communion will be distributed on both sides of the church: by the Tabernacle and by the Baptistry. You are asked to return to your pew through the main aisle. Please keep the 2 meter distance by following the signs on the floor. The people from the back come first for the Communion, then those closer to the front.
16. There will be a simplified procession at the beginning and end of Mass to and from the sacristy, and there will be no procession for the presentation of the Gifts.
17. At the conclusion of Mass, you will be directed to exit row by row by our ushers beginning from the back pews. Please be sure to leave the exits clear and to keep the necessary social distance between yourself and anyone else you may be conversing with outside the building. Please, at this time, there will be no socializing in the church, even though we will be tempted to talk to others after or before the Mass after so long time apart.
18. The collection baskets are placed at the back of the church, where you can leave your offering as you exit the church.
19. We will continue to livestream Rosary and daily Mass through our Facebook and Website at 12pm/12.30pm until Saturday, June 20th 12.30pm. Then we will stop livestreaming daily Mass as we will need to be devoting much attention to our reopening procedures. We may continue to livestream later on, so stay tuned for an update on that.

I ask for your patience and compassion for all parish staff and volunteers who will be assisting as we begin to implement these new measures, which are there for everyone's safety. It may take a little while for all of us to get used to this new normal and work out any unforeseen issues that may arise. Your consideration will be very much appreciated.

Thank-you for taking the time to review this information. I look forward to being able to gather in person with our community once again. God bless you!

Fr. Janusz and Fr. Jacek