



*Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church*  
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September 21, 2020

Hello Our Lady of the Lake Parishioners,

On behalf of parish staff and volunteers, I am writing to let you know we are here, we are open, and we are available to you. I also want to give the parish as a whole some updates. For those of you who haven't felt comfortable coming to Church, I greet you as your new pastor since July 1. I hope that some of these updates will put your mind and heart at ease that the Church is a safe place to be and pray.

We continue to follow the protocols like hand sanitizing, social distancing, and the wearing of a face covering inside the buildings so that we can stay open and keep people safe.

You likely recall that, in July, Governor Walz required masks to be worn in all public indoor spaces including churches. That requirement is still in effect. Though decisions regarding safety protocols within Catholic churches are ultimately within the authority of the diocesan bishop, Catholic tradition teaches that the Church should collaborate with public officials in the service of public health and the common good unless directives are unreasonable, impractical, or discriminatory. The Archdiocese does not regard the Governor's Executive order to wear face coverings to be any of these and is therefore asking parishes and schools to comply with this order.

There are exemptions to this requirement in the Church, though, including:

- Individuals with a medical condition or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering
- Children who are five years old and under, and
- Those assisting at Mass in certain ministries – priests, cantors, musicians, and lectors.

The mask may also be removed for the reverent reception of Holy Communion. We ask for your cooperation with this order as we rightfully follow the guidance of our Archbishop – and we ask that you not judge those whose particular condition might exempt them from this requirement.

### **Updates:**

*Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses*- Since last week's article in the Catholic Spirit, many have asked about receiving Holy Communion at the normal time. We will start that the weekend of October 3 & 4 at the 5pm & 8:30am Masses and this will apply to all other Masses which are inside the Church. Holy Communion at the 10:30am "parking lot" Mass will continue at the end of Mass until it moves back in the Church. Please remember to remove your mask inside your car before you reach the Communion Minister so you can reverently receive the Lord before you drive away from the minister. By the way,

we are thinking the “parking lot” Mass will move back in the church at the end of October or early November. There will be further communication about that at a later date.

Effective immediately, we will no longer require electronic sign-up for the weekend Masses nor sign-in before Mass. We may resume this if we foresee greater attendance at certain Masses like a feast day, weddings or funerals. We currently have plenty of room at each Mass for more attendance.

*Daily Mass on Thursday and Friday* will start back at 8am again beginning September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, but Holy Communion at the normal time during Daily Masses will not start until Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Confessions* will be moved to the “Children’s Room inside the Church” for the rest of the pandemic (with privacy dividers in the big windows!) beginning Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. I am also adding another confession time before the 9am Daily/School Mass on Wednesday mornings at 8:15 to 8:45am beginning September 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Adoration of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament:* is currently in the Fireside Room with an entrance through the Pace Center Door #8. Effective Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, hours for Eucharistic Adoration are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and 1<sup>st</sup> Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm. Adoration will continue in the Fireside Room while the John Paul II Adoration Chapel is being enhanced. If you would like to sign up for Adoration, please visit [adorationpro.org/lakemn](http://adorationpro.org/lakemn) and click on “Weekly Commitment” or you may call Judith at 262-269-2422 or Monique at 612-325-2235. Walk ins are welcome, with a capacity of six people in the room.

*Library* will now be open when the church is open, during office hours, and before and after the weekend Masses.

*Other non-church buildings:* The Catholic school is open. Though it has been a lot of work, it is going great so far! We will be opening for Faith Formation in October. These are the top two priorities for indoor meetings along with some other staff led meetings until we get through October. Currently, non-staff led meetings may not meet in the buildings. After October, we will assess how things are going and begin to communicate about other groups meeting in the facilities.

Please continue to have family, group and personal prayer and include Our Lady of the Lake Parish and School in your prayers! Pray for our continued growth in holiness and ability to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our world so in need of Him! Pray for our growth in “making disciples of all....baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..” and remember that Jesus is “always with us to the end of the age” (Mat. 28: 19-20).

God bless you!

Fr. Peter Richards  
Pastor