

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church

415 NE 105th Street, Miami Shores, FL 33138

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you the good news that we are moving toward a limited reopening of our church. It has been a difficult time for us since March 18th when our doors were closed for public masses. The Archbishop had to make a difficult decision to suspend public masses out of concern for everyone's safety and in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Now that the governor and the local governments have started to relax the restrictions, Archbishop Wenski has announced that we can begin to reopen churches for masses with a congregation starting with **daily masses** on **Tuesday, May 26th**.

To ensure everyone's safety, I ask your full cooperation in observing the following guidelines and restrictions recommended by CDC and the Archdiocese of Miami.

- Beginning on **Tuesday, May 26th**, we will start the daily celebration of Masses with a congregation. Our normal schedule for daily masses will be at **6:45am and 8:15am**.
- Weekend masses will begin on **Saturday, May 30th** with the **5pm Vigil of Pentecost**.
- Our schedule will remain the same: **5pm Saturday, 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish) and 5pm Sunday**.
 - The Archbishop's dispensation from Sunday mass obligation will continue to be in effect until further notice.
 - We ask that anyone who is sick to remain home, as should vulnerable and at-risk populations.
 - The masses will continue to be live streamed daily with a slight change in the schedule via E-catholic, Facebook and YouTube.
 - **Masses will be Livestreamed daily at 8:15 am and on Sundays at 9:00 am and at 1:00 pm in Spanish.**
- Due to social distancing, pew spaces will be limited to 25%-30% of our capacity. Six feet of social distancing in all directions has to be maintained at all times.
- Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Every other pew will be blocked off and only family members living at the same address may sit together.
- Only the doors on the east side of the church will be open for **entry and exit** (by kiosk and parish office).
- Hand Sanitizers will be available at the entrance doors. You are welcome to bring your own sanitizer.
- Please refrain from gathering around the doors at all times.
- Face masks/facial coverings will be required for everyone attending. They are to be worn at all times except when receiving Holy Communion.
- Standing in the aisles and other areas of the church is prohibited.

- Missalettes and hymnals will no longer be available in the pews. You may use an electronic device to follow the mass readings and prayers.
- There will be **NO** hand holding at any time during mass. (Lord's Prayer and sign of peace)
- There will be no procession with the gifts at the offertory.
- There will be tape markings on the floor to guide you to keep social distancing when you are in line for Communion.
- We recommend everyone to receive Communion in the hand. Please note that if you are wearing gloves, these must be removed before the reception of Communion.
- The church will be sanitized after each mass according to CDC recommendations.
- The use of restrooms will be restricted to emergencies only.
- Confessions will be held by appointment only. Please call the office to schedule.
- For baptisms, weddings, sick calls, funeral needs and other pastoral care, please call the parish office at 305-758-0539.
- There will be no other parish activities or meetings – except virtual ones until further notice.

Please note that these initial guidelines will be reviewed and may be changed as needed. Each plan/procedure relies on the success of the previous one.

We count on each and every one of you to help us by sharing this information with your family and friends whom we may not be able to reach or who may not have access to the internet.

I understand there are a lot of changes, but this is what we must do at this time to comply with all relevant guidelines to keep ourselves and our fellow parishioners safe.

Let us continue to place our trust in God, who always cares for us. As always, let us pray for each other during this changing time and for an end to this pandemic.

Please continue to remain safe.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. George