Saint Ann Roman Catholic Church

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Dear People of God! June 5, 2020

On Monday, our Bishop Brennan announced that beginning next weekend (June 13 & 14), Churches and Adoration chapels in the Diocese of Fresno could open for public worship. The details of the safeguards and guidelines are posted on our parish webpage, Facebook page and Diocesan webpage. These guidelines have been crafted to help all of our locations to be in compliance with the regulations and mandates that come to us by way of civil authorities: city, county, state, federal or Diocesan. By necessity, this reopening will be incremental and prolonged, literally one step at a time.

With new guidance from the Diocese of Fresno, we are presently working on a plan to offer public Masses at SAINT ANN starting Saturday, June 13th. I am so happy to write to you and say WELCOME BACK. Please note that when public Masses resume next week, Mass and confession times are changed to ensure time to clean and sanitize the Church and parish hall before and after each public Mass.

The number of people allowed to attend will be limited to allow for the six feet of separation and social distancing. The communal singing of hymns is not encouraged and our music will be limited as the hymnals have been removed from the pews. An extra English Mass is added to the current weekend Mass schedule, please see below the new schedule.

***Parishioners arriving after the church is filled will be led to the parish hall to watch the Mass on a livestream and receive communion. If there’s no room inside the church or parish hall, parishioners can also listen to the Mass in their vehicles and receive communion at designated areas.***

At phase one, our Saint Ann Church Maximum capacity is 100 people and parish hall capacity is 60 people with six feet social distance.

“Those who live together may sit together.” Priest won’t be shaking parishioners’ hands after Mass, and neither will parishioners be shaking each other’s hands during the Sign of Peace or holding hands during the Our Father. **All parishioners over age 11 must wear a face mask while on parish grounds at all times**, **except when receiving Communion. If you are able, please bring your personal hand sanitizer.** Please bring your donation in an envelope ready to be dropped off before or after Mass.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is still in effect, and therefore you are not morally obligated to attend. We urge all parishioners who are elderly, infirm, who have underlying medical issues, or are sick in any way not to attend Mass. The safety and well-being of every parishioner are of paramount concern.

**Confessions:** Confessions may be heard in the church crying room (face-to-face), as long as a 6-foot distance between the priest and penitent is maintained. “Drive through” confessions are also possible: penitents remain in their vehicles with the vehicle window open while the priest hears their confession from a 6-foot distance from the vehicle window. Confessions are heard any time by appointment.

**Time to update:** We are currently updating our parishioners contact information to include email addresses and cell phone number (for sending texts only, if preferred) as well as mailing addresses.  This will allow us to send electronic bulletins and announcements to help keep you, our faith community, informed.  We humbly ask you to after complete the form provided and return by mail, email, bring by to the church office, or drop in the collection box. If you prefer to fill this form electronically you can find it on our parish webpage.

**Perpetual Adoration:** The repair of the restroom in the Adoration Chapel is underway, but the blockage has been temporarily cleared.  Therefore, Perpetual Adoration can resume per Diocesan guidelines.  The root cause of the problem is rusted out cast iron sewer lines from the Chapel to the main line that extends down the alley way.  These will be repaired, per US Building Code requirements, by clearing and cleaning the existing pipe and relining it with a plastic liner.  This will be completed as soon as possible. The repair is estimated to cost $15,000.

**Office Opening:** Beginning June 8th the Parish will be open. Please wear a mask and sanitize your hands upon entering the offices.  We look forward to welcoming you!  Also, I want to give you my sincere thanks for your generosity, during this time of crisis. St. Ann was able to maintain its support of those in need through our Food Bank Program.

**Finances:**  Since the shutdown, our parish income has been down by about 40%.   Prudently, we reduced our expenses where we could and some expenses naturally reduced, like our utilities; but, we were unable to completely offset the income reduction.  We are fortunate and thankful to you, because we have a healthy savings account.  We needed our savings to supplement and maintain our reduced, but critical, parish functions. In early May, we submitted a revised budget to the Diocese depicting how we planned to manage the parish through an extended shutdown.  We hope as we return to normal operations, our income, also, returns to normal.  As Masses re-start we will have some increased expenses.  For example, we will need to purchase large amounts of disinfectants, sanitizers, and other ancillary items to clean our spaces after use.  Your contributions of either money or products are appreciated.  If you support by providing products, please contact the office for guidance as to what is needed.  Tax exemptions apply. We thank you once again for your generosity.

**Online giving:** We remain grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish.  May we ask those who are giving by envelopes, to please consider moving to our safe and secure online giving  <https://osvonlinegiving.com/4812>.  In doing so, you will help us immensely in the following ways:

1) We can save $4000 per year, if we eliminate sending envelopes; 2) it provides stability and allows us to plan and budget better; and, 3) it saves time for our staff and volunteers by freeing them to attend to other pressing needs.  We can assist you with making the move.

**New Schedule for Masses and Confession at Saint Ann**

**Note:** All weekday and weekend Masses are celebrated at Parish Church. Weekday Mass resumes June 15, Monday through Friday 8:00AM. All weekend Masses are live streamed. If you plan to attend Weekend Mass starting from June 13 and 14, help us plan for safety, by filling out of the online Mass survey form at [http://www.parishofsaintann.org](http://www.parishofsaintann.org/). For those who do not have access to a computer or need assistance with this process, please contact us at 760-375-2110.

Thanks to the hard work of our re-opening leadership team, especially Brenda and Ron Bell for stepping forward to be leaders of taskforce committee. As the parish taskforce committee and I continue to plan for the resumption of public Masses at Saint Ann, I ask for your patience and understanding.  This is a time for each of us to be humble, and practice unity and charity.

Be Well. Do Good! Stay safe! God Bless. Saint Ann, pray for us!

*Fr. Rayanna Pudota*

(Spanish version of this letter can be found on our parish webpage)

**Sunday:**     8:00am English Mass

                 10:00am English Mass

                   5:00pm English Mass

**Saturday:**  3:30pm - 4:30pm Confessions

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5:00pm English Mass

                   7:00pm Spanish Mass