



# CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

---

2131 Fairview Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113 | [office@ccmn.org](mailto:office@ccmn.org) | 651-639-8888

Dear Corpus Christi Parishioners,

Thank you for your patience and your prayers during this unusual and uncertain time. We, the staff at Corpus Christi, care about you, miss you, and long to be in communion with you. Since our new pastor, Fr. Michael, arrived in Roseville, we have been discussing how best to safely serve the needs of our community. It is our goal to come back to Mass together as soon as it is safe to do so. We surveyed parishioners in May and were pleased so many of you offered your input. We are again asking for your feedback. We would like to give you information on what we discussed up to this point and welcome you into the conversation.

While the staff was not initially in agreement on the best course of action for the near future, we did decide on a plan that we believe is best for the health and safety of all in our community. Archbishop Hebda has continued to dispense the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for the foreseeable future. We will continue to provide Worship at Home resources and will be adding recorded Sunday Masses with Fr. Michael, integrating the recorded music from our music ministry. The recorded Masses will be designed to be used in conjunction with what is already available on the Worship at Home webpage. There will be opportunities to stop the video to discuss the homily, add in prayer intentions, and to make the experience even more interactive. All of these efforts are to help us continue to grow closer to God.

We plan to open slowly, beginning with Phase One. During this phase, we will be allowing groups of no more than 10 to utilize the Gathering Area only with social distancing, masks, and clear safety procedures. This will include three weekday Masses and events such as bible studies, Moms In Prayer meetings, baptism classes, parish leadership meetings, youth group meetings, and other events that relate to our parish mission.

Keeping in mind the size limit of 10 people, groups will need to schedule gatherings through the Parish Office by e-mailing [office@ccmn.org](mailto:office@ccmn.org) or calling 651-639-8888. Scheduling precedence will be given to parish-sponsored events. Groups will need to adhere to strict COVID-19 safety protocols including wearing masks, physically distancing, and maintaining a log of those that attended each meeting for tracing purposes.

Weekday Masses will begin on September 29, the schedule will be: Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, Wednesdays at Noon, and Fridays at Noon. For now, these Masses will be limited to 10 people. Those wishing to attend Mass will need to sign up ahead of time for tracing purposes. To serve as many as possible, we ask that you register for only one Mass per week. Anyone that arrives after Mass begins or that isn't on the list will be turned away. Anyone 65 and older or with underlying health conditions will be encouraged to stay home per Center for Disease Control,

MN Department of Health, and Archdiocesan guidelines. Face masks must be worn at all times and social distancing is required. There will be no singing, no worship aids, and no missalettes provided.

In coming to our consensus, we discussed many possibilities, ideas, and scenarios. We presumed that weekday Masses would naturally be more lightly attended than weekend Masses. We expressed the need for safety when coming back in person. The Center for Disease Control, MN Department of Health, and the Archdiocese have many guidelines that we are required to follow as we open up. We talked about ventilation in church and the Gathering Area, distancing, the logistics of getting in and out of the building safely, and sanitizing the space after each use.

Ventilation is good in the church, but we agreed that it would be harder to ensure that distance is maintained since the pews intersect and sometimes face each other. Going back to Mass in church can have the possibility of falling into old habits and wanting to sit in a certain pew or with others in the community. Getting in and out of the space through a single entrance and exit presents challenges as well. There are a lot of surfaces to sanitize if we go back to Mass in our sanctuary.

Ventilation in the Gathering Area is not as good, especially as we move into colder months with heat instead of air conditioning. While the weather is still nice, we could prop doors and windows open to allow for better airflow, but we would not be able to continue this practice when the weather is hot or cold. Mass in the Gathering Area would allow for better control over seating and maintaining distance. It would also allow us to get in and out of the space with ease. Sanitizing would be simpler.

There was discussion of having outdoor Sunday Mass. Corpus Christi has a history of having an outdoor Mass each summer. Weather is always a factor and we have had the unfortunate experience of being rained out many times. In windy weather, it can be hard to hear when our microphones pick up the sound of the wind. Since the weather is going to get colder and snowier in the coming months, we did not think that this was a good long-term solution.

It is our desire to put together a committee to decide when we will come back to Sunday Mass in-person and how it will look when we do. This committee would include staff, doctors, and public health professionals from within our community. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact the Parish Office at [office@ccmn.org](mailto:office@ccmn.org) or 651-639-8888.

For now, please know that the staff is getting creative in planning safe opportunities for all parishioners to grow in faith this year. We will be focusing on the theme of prayer this year for parishioners of all ages. There will be monthly activities for everyone to safely participate in. Even though we can't all get together in person, we can cultivate our spiritual community connection. Please join the conversation as we brainstorm ways to care for all of those in our community and to allow our faith to flourish.

To gather your thoughts, we have established a comment phone line in addition to using the eContact Form on our website. You may reach us by leaving a voicemail on our dedicated phone line at 651-846-9224 or filling out the eContact Form at [www.ccmn.org/electronic-contact-form](http://www.ccmn.org/electronic-contact-form).

We also have a survey to check in with how you and your family are doing during this time. This survey will ask the same questions as the survey that we took back in May. We heard from over 100 people at that time and the results are published on our website (under the COVID-19 tab). That information was very helpful to us and we would like to gain an understanding of where you are now, 4 months later. Please take a moment to let us know how best to serve you at this time. You may fill out the survey online. Paper copies are available in the parish office.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/882JMYM>

We look forward to hearing from you. Please know that we are praying for you and we await the day that we can all be together in person again.

Anchored in Christ,

The Corpus Christi Staff & Parish Council