



Nov. 24, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Here is an update concerning parish activities.

**Music at Mass:**

Starting Nov. 28, St. Patrick Church will once more feature music and singing during our Saturday & Sunday Masses. This complies with the Mass directives expressed by Bishop Parkes in his recent letter (which all our registered households received via email last weekend).

The new hymnals are available on a table in the narthex. Feel free to take one home with you, bringing it back and forth to Mass as your personal book. There is no charge for this, but we ask people to limit it to one per household. Please remember that, to reduce the possible spread of the coronavirus, we are not permitted to keep hymnals in the pews for community use.

**Facemasks in Church:**

According to abovementioned letter from Bishop Parkes, “wearing a mask is highly encouraged at all times when the faithful are inside our buildings.” This has been the policy at St. Patrick Church, but I would like to stress it even more now that singing is reinstated. Nevertheless, because wearing facemasks is problematic for some due to medical or psychological reasons, St. Patrick Church will continue its policy of having facemasks optional but highly encouraged, at least at this time. If facemasks in public areas become required by the state government or the diocese we will, of course, comply.

**Purified Air & Other Safety Measures**

All the air conditioning units of the main building are now outfitted with devices that kill viruses that pass through them, including the coronavirus. Moreover, the mobile classrooms and many of our smaller rooms have additional air purifying machines that do the same. These devices also remove allergens, mold, dust, and bacteria.

As long as the pandemic continues, the Ecovasive company will treat all our buildings on a quarterly basis. This coats all the hard and soft surfaces of each room with a microscopic layer that destroys the coronavirus. In addition to all these safety measures, people entering the church have their temperatures checked and their hands disinfected. After each Mass, the seats and door handles are sprayed with a hydrogen-peroxide disinfectant solution (which is safe for fabrics and colors).

**Mass Overflow Areas:**

Because space in the main area of the church is limited due to social distancing, many of the side rooms and mobile classrooms are set up as Mass overflow areas. Socially distanced seating is found in these rooms and wall-mounted televisions will livestream the Mass. Communion ministers will come to each area to distribute the Eucharist. Seating in the main church is “first come, first serve.” People are also welcome to stay outside, viewing the Mass on their phones, and then come to the fountain to receive communion. Masses are viewed on our church’s FaceBook page; one does not need a FaceBook account to do this ( [facebook.com/stpatrickga](https://facebook.com/stpatrickga) ).

**No R.C.I.A. this Week:**

Despite what is in the bulletin calendar, R.C.I.A. will not meet Nov. 25.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive & Angel Tree:**

A big “thank you” to all those who assisted with our Thanksgiving food drive and Angel Tree charity. There was a huge response to this, and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Finally, I and the staff of St. Patrick Church wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Eric