



SACRED HEART OF JESUS LATIN MASS COMMUNITY

14 MARCH 2021

PASTORAL LETTER FOR LAETARE SUNDAY

To the members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass Community,

As we celebrate this weekend Laetare Sunday - I extend my prayers to all of you as our Lenten Journey is rapidly approaching Passion Tide. We rejoice too in this year of St. Joseph as we approach his Solemn Feast this Friday. We ask for his intercession for protection prudence during this time. May we be enkindled with a great fervor as we discipline ourselves through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the Paschal Mysteries.

As of the Feast of St. Joseph (Friday, March 19) onwards we are permitted again by the Saskatchewan Government to gather persons according to our occupancy at 30% up to 150 people. (N.B. For those interested: Our gym-overflow area seats 170 and our Church 180 persons. Total seated occupancy is 350 so at 30% the Church is permitted around 105 persons.) Starting with our Friday mass onwards we will be able to have more people gather more frequently but **there are some items to draw people's attention to again so** that we can safely and reverently enter the coming Holy Week and Easter season liturgies together as a community:

- **Masks/face-coverings are mandatory** while indoors unless for very young children or if one can show a medical exemption from their doctor. This is not optional or something the Latin Mass Community can disregard. I remind all of you that we are guest in St. Peter's Church and liability falls to them, myself, and our community as a whole. **If persons are not willing to comply with this** even in the simplest way with an appropriate face covering/scarf etc. **they ought not to schedule to attend** until the mandate is lifted.
- A reminder too that the Sunday obligation to assist at Mass and Holy Days of Obligation is still dispensed until further notice by the Bishop.
- It is understandable and expected that throughout the liturgy if one has to adjust their covering or take a drink a water etc. But be especially mindful coming and going to comply with the of the government as well as the directives required by our bishop for us to gather safely. I am also particularly concerned as we will be having more higher risk individuals attending in the coming days, who require our compliance on the face covering mandate to safely celebrate these liturgies and not put them at greater risk. I am asking in charity that you be mindful of their dignity and rights to come piously and safely to the Holy Week celebrations.
- Once mass is over, it is necessary that families or as many individuals as possible assist in the cleaning of the pews. Then proceed outside to visit. There is no need to gather in the welcome area and to crowd there unless persons need access to the washrooms or changing area for babies. As soon as possible, proceed outside now that the weather is good and please spread out so that persons coming and going may safely use the doorways. Try to visit and spread out maintaining some adequate physical distancing.

Bob Hook continues to be scheduling persons and families for liturgies with our regular Friday evening time at 5.15pm and Sundays at 8am at St. Peter's Church. The Holy Week liturgies are as follows: Holy Thursday 5pm and Good Friday 1pm; (Easter Sunday at 8am as usual). Between

the Triduum liturgies, everyone that wishes should be able to attend at least once. I thank Bob throughout this for his diligent work in facilitating our gatherings. Please thank him and be respectful in this process as there are often many logistical challenges that arise so that most fairly and frequently all members may be able to attend the liturgies.

I understand some of the challenges this presents to individuals and share often many of your own concerns throughout this pandemic. But I ask now most fervently that we as a community come together and keep our eyes fixed on Christ our Lord during this most solemn of season. I do not want any unnecessary divisions between us as we gather as the body of Christ during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I will continue to be available for pastoral visits, for private confessions, and any other needs you may have during these coming weeks. For these and any other reasons, if individuals want to schedule a time to come pray at the Church at Lourdes too or to make the Way of the Cross, feel free to write me (gyoung@rcdos.ca) or call/text 639-471-3246 and as always, I am more than happy to assist in this.

With Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Fr. Geoffrey Young
Moderator-Chaplain (SHJLMC)

~ Yours in Christ with Mary,

Fr. Geoffrey Young
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