

Hello,

Guidelines and directives were received late Wednesday evening from Bishop Braxton and the bishops from the state of Illinois **to give direction to parishes in the state** for the gradual re-opening of our churches for the celebration of public Mass and the sacraments. The letter from Bishop Braxton and the Executive Summary for parish reopening of our churches for the celebration of public Mass and the sacramental life is posted on the St. Mary Parish website at www.stmarycarlyle.org. and click on the home page.

I will be meeting with a committee of 6 from St. Mary to propose to the diocese how we will socially distance, WEAR MASKS, disinfect church to celebrate baptisms, weddings, funerals and Eucharistic Adoration.

Once the diocese approves our submitted plans for Phase I celebration of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Eucharistic adoration, we can then officially do them, hopefully by the end of May.

THEN our parish committee will submit plans for Phase II, the public celebration of Mass. Once Phase II guidelines are approved, our hope is that we can start celebrating public Masses again the first weekend of June.

Once we come together for Masses, **IT WILL BE DIFFERENT.**

Everyone will wear masks. Everyone will socially distance. The number who can come to church at one time will be smaller.

To quote Fr. Jim Buerster of Bartelso & Germantown parishes, “Because we will have smaller numbers attending Mass, we will probably continue to live-stream a weekend Mass. Church will be disinfected after every celebration. This will be a work in progress. Remember: Patience is a virtue. If you weren’t crabby by now, you may be by the time we implement these changes.”

Get a mask, and be prepared! In the meantime, Bishop Braxton has announced that even when the celebration of Sunday Eucharist begins, the Bishops have decided to keep the current dispensation in place: ie. removing the obligation to attend the weekend liturgy.

Peace, Fr. George