

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight provides instructions for public Masses,
other aspects of church life beginning June 16, 2020**

Fr. Bill Peckman	6/21/2020
SS. Peter & Paul, Boonville	
St. Joseph, Fayette	

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has provided a decree with updated instructions for parishes effective Tuesday, June 16, after Gov. Mike Parson lifted statewide regulations on June 15, leaving the determination of public health requirements to local governments. Important safety measures will continue to help protect congregants from infection and slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Bishop McKnight has dispensed until Sept. 11, 2020 the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday or a holy day for all the faithful of the diocese and all who are present within the diocese's territorial boundaries. However, the faithful are required to observe and participate in the Sunday or holy day liturgy either by participating in a Mass being livestreamed, or by praying and meditating on the readings of the Mass with the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet. Parishes are highly encouraged to continue livestreaming Masses at least through Labor Day weekend.

People who are infected with COVID-19 are not permitted to enter church properties, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All are asked to check their temperature at home before going to church.

Abiding by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, people who are aged 65 or older or are at risk because of an underlying health issue are strongly encouraged not to attend public Masses where they may be exposed to the coronavirus due to crowds or lack of adherence to safety measures. Those who do come to churches for Mass and other activities are highly encouraged to practice social distancing, use face masks and otherwise observe measures for the common good.

Those who persist in their desire to receive Holy Communion on the tongue may do so but only after those who receive Holy Communion in the hand, or in a Communion line designated solely for Holy Communion on the tongue.

To read the full decree, visit: <https://diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/06/15/decreed-on-pastoral-activities-following-the-governors-declaration-lifting-statewide-restrictions-for-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

FROM FATHER BILL:

Let's be clear on what this decree is and isn't.

First, it is not a prolonged vacation from faith. The commandment to keep holy the Sabbath (already ignored by most Catholics) doesn't evaporate into the ether because of a pandemic. The Bishop did bind the faithful, under pain of sin, that if they opt for a legitimate reason to not come to Mass, they **MUST** do one of the following:

- A) Participate in a livestreamed Mass offered by one's parish, diocese, Holy See....
- B) Read and reflect on the Sunday readings AND pray the rosary
- C) Read and reflect on the Sunday readings AND pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Those in at-risk groups and those who live with those in at-risk groups understandably should exercise these options.

Let's also exercise honesty. If we don't mind being in other groups and such, then why not Mass? Selective fear is being less than honest.

These are strange times in which we live. The Bishop is navigating between the extremes of unregulated fear and nothing to see here. He also deferred to local counties and municipalities to make decisions based on what conditions are there. He does this because the situation on the ground almost varies from county to county. While Cooper and Howard counties have fared well in this crisis, with no active cases in weeks and very few overall, our neighbors (Boone, Moniteau, Saline, and Pettis) have had a much harder go. So what each counties will do will differ.

Wearing masks while moving in church and social distancing are still recommended. The ban on Communion on the tongue is lifted with a minor stipulation which will be very easy to accommodate. Bans on Holy Water in the fonts (which we have filled with individual bottles of Holy Water for you to take home), Communion under both species, the Sign of Peace, normal collections, use of hymnals, and offertory processions still remain in place.

Through 9/11/2020, we will retain the current schedule. All Masses at SS. Peter and Paul will be livestreamed and can be viewed at SS Peter and Paul Boonville Mo Facebook page. **It is no longer necessary to call to reserve a seat for Mass.** The Mass schedule at SS Peter and Paul will be:

- Wednesday at 6 p.m.
- Thursday to Saturday at 9 a.m.
- Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

The Mass schedule at St. Joseph will be 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Sundays.

Confession times will be 35 minutes before all Masses with exception of the 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, and from 4:30 to 5:15 Saturday afternoon.

Eucharistic Adoration at SS. Peter and Paul will be in the main Church on the First and Third Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. We will start Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph in July. I am looking at the 3rd Tuesday from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

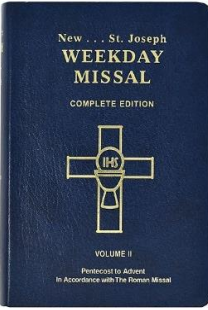
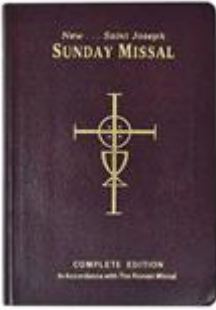
Totus Tuus will also be happening. We will have two sessions for grades 1 to 6. One will be in the morning and one in the afternoon. We are doing this to limit the numbers per session. The evening program for grades 7 to 12 will go on as normal.

As for stipulations by either Howard or Cooper counties, we will look into those and hopefully have answers by the weekend.

Finally, we recommend the purchase of a weekday and/or Sunday Missal. We can order these in bulk. Please contact Flo at the parish office to get on that order. The cost for each missal is about \$30 (this includes shipping).

Also, as I did earlier, I do recommend a family shrine or altar where you gather for prayer in the home, especially if you must chose an option rather than Mass, so that livestream Mass is treated with respect and not treated the same as watching a sitcom or movie. We have suggestions on the table of sacramentals in both churches. These too can be bulk ordered at both parishes.

With our world as troubled as it is now, pulling away from the Eucharist is ill-advised. Some must for now. But again, let's not exercise selective fear.

ITEM PHOTO	NAME & DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL \$
	<p>Saint Joseph Weekday Missal Vol. 2. Item: 41703. This 1,344 page perpetual Saint Joseph Weekday Missal (Volume 2) offers all the weekday Masses with all their options and prayers. Following the liturgical year, this volume contains all weekday Masses from Pentecost to Advent in a handy-size flexible missal with a sturdy blue cover. This easy-to-use missal is the perfect companion to anyone who wishes to enhance their celebration of the Mass. Material: Paper/Vinyl Cover</p>	<p>\$23.95 (About \$30 with shipping)</p>		
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