

Dear Saint Michael Parishioners,

I hope you are all well.

Please continue to pray for peace, justice, and understanding in our city, state, country, and Church. To say the least, we are living in rapidly changing and unsettling times. Continue to seek and ask for the Lord's presence in our lives.

The latest regarding the coronavirus and Saint Michael parish.

1. As I communicated previously, Father Schwenka, Fr. Kipper, and I were tested for Covid May 30, and our results came back negative. The three of us also self-isolated for 14 days and have no symptoms.
2. Therefore, I have made the decision to resume publically-attended Masses this weekend beginning Saturday evening, June 6. Sunday Masses will be the regular schedule 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., and 11:10 A.M. All three Sunday Masses are open to the public and will be celebrated in the gym. Father Schwenka bought a high resolution camera and set it up to allow us to live-stream the 9:30 A.M. Mass while it is also publically attended.
3. Newly ordained and parishioner Father Alec Sasse will celebrate Saturday evening Mass this Sunday, June 6, and the 9:30 A.M. and 11:10 A.M. Masses Sunday, June 7, and preach the 8:00 A.M. Mass. He will give his first priestly blessing after each Mass.
4. Confessions will be Saturday 4:00-5:00 P.M. and one half hour before each Sunday Mass. All confessions will be in the bell tower entrance.
5. Publically-attended daily Masses will resume Monday, June 8. They will be 7:00 A.M. and 8:15 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. They also will be in the gym. The 8:15 A.M. Mass will continue to be live-streamed, as well.
6. I ask that all parishioners wear masks at Mass. If you do not have one, masks will be provided. I believe masks do provide protection. Therefore, I ask that you wear them for our parishioners who might be vulnerable.
7. First Communion—With new directives sent out by Governor Ricketts, with the advisement of the State Department of Health, we have scheduled First Holy Communion for the weekend of June 13-14, which is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. We will divide the approximately 60 second graders over the four weekend Masses—Saturday 5:00 P.M., Sunday 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., and 11:10 A.M.

Each Mass will have about 15 students. This way, each family can invite ten family members, which allows us to meet health directives. Each Mass will be celebrated in the gym. We will live-stream each Mass so relatives unable to attend can watch. If families are not comfortable returning in-person to Mass, alternate arrangements can be made. There will not be a reception following Masses.

8. Confirmation—The Sacrament of Confirmation has been scheduled for Sunday, June 14, at 7:00 P.M. and Monday, June 15 at 7:00 P.M. We scheduled Sunday evening June 14 so any families who had both a First Communicant and Confirmandi would not have to make two trips if they live at a distance. Confirmation will be celebrated by Saint Michael parish priests who have received special permission from Archbishop George Lucas. These Masses, too, will be live-streamed. There will not be a reception following these Masses.

9. We continue to follow every directive of the State of Nebraska Health Directives plus all of the directives of the Diocese of Lincoln.
These include:
 - a.) The wearing of masks
 - b.) Social distancing
 - c.) An abundant use of hand sanitizer
 - d.) In addition, we are disinfecting chairs after each Mass.

10. The obligation to attend weekend Mass continues to be suspended until further notice.

11. Stewardship—I continue to ask for Church support. As I have said in recent weeks, the corona virus and all of its fallout have made a huge dent in parish finances. So many of you were very generous in your response to my initial appeals for continued and/or increased Church support. Whatever you can give will be much appreciated. I am very grateful to those who have responded to my previous request.

12. Thanks you. Once again I am very, very grateful to all of you for your offers of help. Please know too you can always contact me at: frborowiak@cdolinc.net or call or text at 402-525-2566.

With my prayers and appreciation for all of you.

Fr. Borowiak