

# Fr. Bashista: Pastor Email 05-29-20 - Welcome Home!

Dear Seton Lake Ridge Parishioners,

We are very excited and anxiously awaiting your return so that we may give God glory, honor and praise together at Mass here at Seton Lake Ridge! As we open the Church for public Masses here tomorrow, **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> beginning with the 9:00 a.m. Mass**, for those who are planning to join us during any part of our Phase #1 Reintegration, below are some current procedures and protocols that we all need to be familiar with.

I begin with a few important reminders:

- **BE SAFE:** If you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing or were exposed to COVID in the past 14 days, or feel sick in anyway, please stay home and do not come to Mass at this time.
- **BE ATTENTIVE:** Everyone must observe capacity limits, practice social distancing and good hand hygiene.
- **BE CHARITABLE:** Please be patient, understanding and kind in following the directions of all ministers, volunteers and staff.

Specific Directives:

1. Please remember, there are always risks involved in the gradual return to more public interaction, even here at Church. Our Church has been recently deep cleaned and our new ministry, the "Seton Sanitizers" (six people for each weekend Mass and two for each daily Mass), will be wiping down frequently contacted surfaces as required by our Governor's guidelines. The Church is scheduled to be deep cleaned two more times in June and again two additional times in July.
2. Those 65 years and older, and anyone with an underlying health condition, will be encouraged (*but not required*) to refrain from coming to Mass.
3. The Bishop's dispensation to NOT attend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice.
4. We will continue to livestream the 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass, and the 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday Masses though our website ONLY. Those Masses will be posted later (not live) on our Facebook page.
5. Some interior doors will be propped open, excluding our new automatic hold open doors which must remain closed when not engaged by the electronic opener.
6. The Nursery and Cry-Room will remain closed until further notice.
7. Collection Baskets will not be passed out but will be placed in the Narthex as we would normally do for a special collection.
8. We are suspending the Altar Server Ministry until further notice.
9. Ushers and Seton Sanitizers are encouraged to check-in via their smartphones on the MSP App, or on the Sign-In iPad located near the Ushers/Greater stand and NOT on the MSP Kiosk located in the Lay-Sacristy.
10. Every other pew is blocked off and non-family members will need to maintain the 6-foot social distancing requirement. The pews that will be used for seating are covered in plastic and are marked with white tape in 6-foot increments. These markings are for gaging a 6-foot distance ONLY and are NOT intended as a

space to contain an individual or a family, i.e. an individual would take up much less space and some families even more

11. When you enter the church, please move as close to the center of a pew as possible. Please honor the single reserved seats marked for our Lectors and Commentators.
12. Daily Mass attendees are asked to sit in the two sections of pews on either side of the center aisle ONLY. This limits the need to clean additional pews after Mass.
13. If by chance, attendance at any Mass approaches 50% capacity, others WILL NOT be permitted entry but will be encouraged to come to a later Mass.
14. Although the Governor's recent Executive Order #63 "*Requirement to Wear Face Coverings While Inside Buildings*" does grant exceptions to "*those participating in a religious ritual*", everyone who is able to wear a face-covering is asked to bring their own and strongly encouraged and expected to do so while keeping in mind the Governor's other exceptions noted in his order namely:
  - *Nothing in this Order shall require the use of a face covering by any person for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition. Any person who declines to wear a face covering because of a medical condition shall not be required to produce or carry medical documentation verifying the stated condition nor shall the person be required to identify the precise underlying medical condition.*
  - *Any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance*
  - *Any person seeking to communicate with the hearing impaired and for which the mouth needs to be visible.*
15. Clergy will be wearing face-masks during the entrance procession, as we distribute Holy Communion and as we depart the liturgy.
16. There will be no music (similar to Sunday's 7:30 a.m. Mass) and all hymnals and information cards have been removed from the pews.
17. There will be no offertory Procession of the Gifts, or exchange of the Sign-of-Peace until further notice.
18. The Diocese suppresses the distribution of the Precious Blood until further notice.
19. Communicants are encouraged to disinfect their hands before receiving Communion.
20. Communicants are to maintain a 6-foot social distance while in the Communion Line. Blue dots are positioned on the carpet to assist with this distancing requirement.
21. Communicants are asked to STOP and remain on the blue dot closest to the Eucharistic Minister while the minister says "*the Body of Christ*". The Communicant responds "*Amen*" and then, lowering their face-covering, steps forward to receive Communion. Once they have received, they return to their pew as they reposition their face-covering.
22. Holy Communion will be distributed by the Clergy and Seminarian ONLY. We will be disinfecting our hands immediately after each and every Communicant who receives on the tongue, even if no physical contact has occurred. We will also be disinfecting our hands immediately if accidental contact is made with a Communicant's hand while giving them Holy Communion in the hand. We will have a 70%+ alcohol-based solution in an ablution (finger) bowl on a small stand next to their Communion station.
23. Each Communicant retains the right to decide how to receive, whether on the tongue or in the hand. If receiving in the hand, the Eucharist must be placed directly in the hand and cannot be placed on any type

of glove, i.e. any glove must be removed prior to receiving in the hand.

The Diocese encourages each person to pray about his or her own decision regarding reception of Communion. Information available in U.S. Center for Disease Control, [Interim Guidance for Leaders of Faith Communities](#) (23 March 2020) & World Health Organization, [Guidance for Faith Communities](#) (7 Apr 2020).

24. ALL parishioners are asked to leave the Church immediately after Mass concludes so the Church may be cleaned by the Seton Sanitizers. All are then asked to proceed directly outside, i.e. no congregating in the Narthex or hallways.
25. Those who wish to offer prayers of thanksgiving after Mass are permitted to do so in the Chapel.
26. Tuesday and First Friday All-Night Adoration, as well as the weekday Rosary, Friday Divine Mercy Chaplet, Blue Army and First Saturday devotions are still suspended until further notice. Along with all other on-site previously scheduled parish activities with the exception of Mass and Confessions.
27. During Phase #I, the Office will remain closed, except for essential personal. All staff will continue to check email and phone messages.

We will be updating procedures and protocols as we move through the differing Phases of Reintegration in future emails as well as postings on our website [www.setonlakeridge.org](http://www.setonlakeridge.org) and Facebook Page [St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Lake Ridge](#).

We thank you for your patience and your prayers. Please know that each and every one of you remain in our prayers as well!

Christ's grace and peace,

Fr. Bashista

[Welcome-Home!.jpg](#)