GUIDELINES FOR THE LIMITED RETURN TO PUBLIC MASSES

As we slowly begin to return to the public celebration of the Holy Mass, the following will be the protocols in place for the safety of all involved. First, a few general principals to remember:

1. **This is not a return to normal.** We are far away from the way we used to do things. The coronavirus is still a real and present threat to everyone.

2. **Only one church will be open initially.** Per the Bishop’s directives for collaboratives, we will initially only open St. Mary’s Cathedral as it allows us the largest space for gathering, and we do not have the capacity to assure the proper cleaning/disinfecting of three church properties at this time.

3. **Limited Space.** Between the capacity restrictions from the Governor and the need to maintain social distancing, we will be able to accommodate approx. 100 people per Mass.

4. **You must register to attend.** We will be registering 100 parishioners to attend each Mass. Due to government and diocesan restrictions, all must **register in advance** to attend Mass. Sign up opens the Monday prior to each weekend, and the deadline to sign up is on Friday at 12:00 Noon. Please sign up indicating the number of people from your household who will be sitting in the same pew as you. You may only attend ONE MASS each weekend. Any additional reservations after your first will be canceled.

5. **This is not a social event.** The Church will only open 10 minutes prior to Mass and you are required to leave immediately following the service. There will NOT be an opportunity to come early or remain later for private prayer. The CDC has shown that the longer groups of people are in contained spaces, the more likely the virus is to spread.

6. **Your cooperation is needed.** The only way that we will get back to something resembling normal is with the cooperation of everyone. It is not helpful if you question our protocols or decide you do not want to follow them. This moment will require everyone on the same page. This includes:
   a. **Wear a mask or facial covering** at all times for the safety of everyone present. *If you are not able to wear a mask, you are not ready to return to public Mass.* If you arrive at Church without a mask/covering you will not be permitted to enter. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.
   b. **Maintain 6 foot social distancing** at all times. Markers will be on pews and aisles to assist with this. Those who live in the same house, do not need to maintain this distance.
   c. **Hand washing when entering/departing.** Please bring your own hand sanitizer or use what is provided at the church both when entering and departing.

7. **Who should attend?** According to the CDC, older adults and persons with pre-existing medical conditions or compromised immune systems are at a higher risk for severe illness from the virus, and **should not attend.** Additionally, **anyone who is feeling sick, has a temperature, has any symptoms of the virus, or has been in the presence of anyone with the virus, should not attend.**

8. **There is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass.** Bishop da Cunha has dispensed the obligation for the foreseeable future. No one is required to attend Mass. We will continue to live stream our Masses every day.
LIMITED MASS SCHEDULE (Beginning May 30):

Monday-Friday:  
12:00 noon

Saturday:  
4:00 p.m. Vigil (English)

Sunday:  
8:00 a.m. (English)  
10:30 a.m. (English)  
1:00 p.m. (Spanish/Portuguese)

WHAT WILL CHANGE AT MASS?

1. **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.** Health professionals tell us that singing spreads virus farther.

2. **MASS WILL BE AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE.** The CDC points out that time spent in proximity increases the risk of transmission. We will move things along quickly, but in a dignified manner.

3. **NO OFFERTORY OR COLLECTION.** Collection receptacles will be placed at the entrance of the Church. Please leave your offering there on your way in or out. All envelopes will be accounted to the proper parish. If you are offering cash and want it specified for a parish, place it in an envelope with the parish name.

4. **NO SIGN OF PEACE.** We will have a moment of silent prayer in its place.

5. **HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE END OF MASS.** Instead of the usual time for Communion, it will be distributed at the end of Mass, as you leave the Church. After the final blessing, the priest/minister(s) will process to the back of the Church with Holy Communion. You will come forward carefully, maintaining social distancing, receive Holy Communion, leave the Church, and proceed directly home or to your car. There will be no congregating socially before or after Mass.

6. **COMMUNION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ONLY IN THE HAND, NOT ON THE TONGUE.**

7. **NO DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.** Communion will be only in the form of the Host.