



THE PASTORATE OF  
**ST. FRANCIS-ST. MARY  
& HOLY FAMILY**

May 22, 2021

The Great Vigil of Pentecost

My Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday, June 6, 2021 we will celebrate with the Church Universal around the world the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ (in Latin: *Corpus Christi*). In this great feast, we remember, we celebrate, and we adore the Eucharistic Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In our Archdiocese of Baltimore, we also begin a special Holy Year of the Eucharist which we'll spend learning to appreciate this great gift of the Body and Blood of Jesus, living and present among us.

God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to be with us and to die for us. Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to offer His Body and Blood sacramentally at the Last Supper and literally on the Cross. The Spirit continues that love right down to our day and out to our community, making God present to us at Mass:

in the community gathered as the Body of Christ,  
in the person of the priest who stands in for Christ, head of the community,  
in His sacred Word in the sacred scriptures, and  
under the forms of bread and wine.

It is God's love given to us at Mass which sends us forth out into the world as the living hands and feet, eyes and ears of Jesus Christ to "Go, make disciples!" What a grace, what a privilege, especially after these past months when our access to the Eucharist has been so sorely limited.

With the continuing progress in fighting the pandemic and with an increasing number of people vaccinated, I am happy to report that we are continuing to expand our on-campus welcome on June 5, 2021, the vigil of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. As you know, we've never been closed even when we could not use the building at all, but I am so excited that we are able to offer more on our Holy Family Campus. (We'll address the Saint Mary Campus including Saint Mary House by the end of June, but right now we're focused on getting as much up and running as we can.) As always, our immediate main concern is the physical health and safety of all who come to us (Our overall primary concern is your spiritual health!) and so we'll be moving cautiously as we seek to expand our on-campus welcome. Please know that it's Jesus Himself who invites: "*Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.* (Matthew 11:28)" All are welcome here and we seek to provide, not only a safe-COVID cautious environment, but truly as safe, comfortable, open place for all, including and especially those who are different, those who feel distant, those who are questioning, or who have been hurt. You are welcome here without judgment.

As we begin the expansion of our welcome, please note well that remaining in effect is the Archbishop's dispensation of our obligation to attend Mass weekly. With excitement, then, I am happy to report that we will return to a full complement of weekend Masses and Confessions without the need to register or call for reservations. The weekend schedule will be as follows:

#### Saturday

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Confessions (in the Saint Joseph Chapel)

5:00 p.m. Mass

#### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Mass (*We will continue to live stream this Mass and the stream will be available to watch through the day on Sunday on our livestream page.*)

11:00 a.m.

Mass

Daily Mass will be offered at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning Prayer will be offered at 9:30 a.m. on all weekdays. We will continue to stream the 9:00 a.m. daily Mass. Please note that this schedule sometimes shifts during the week depending on my additional responsibilities and other obligations. Again, we ask you to be patient.

We will also continue to offer Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of each month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. During this Year of the Eucharist, we are going to devote each of the months to a special cause and ask people to join us, in person or via live stream, to pray with us. Stay tuned for more information and monthly invitations.

We will also start having early morning confessions for those unable to make the Saturday afternoon confessions. Beginning Tuesday, June 8, we will offer the sacrament of reconciliation on Tuesday mornings from 6:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. For these and for the weekend confessions we will revise the current procedures slightly. More on that later.

Recognizing that Frederick County remains at high risk and Washington County remains at very high risk, we ask that, regardless of your vaccination status, you continue to wear a mask for all liturgies and while you are here inside on campus. This is to make our services accessible to as many as possible, including for those for whom the vaccine is not available. We realize this is an inconvenience and we'll revisit it in the near future as the number of vaccinations continues to rise. We do want, however, to provide a safe place for all, especially our young people who are only now starting to be vaccinated.

The State of Maryland and the Archdiocese of Baltimore has removed the cap on capacity for our church building. Social distancing, which is still required to limit extended contact and possible transmission of the virus, is reduced to 3 feet

allowing us to utilize every pew. At the moment, we will continue to seat people for all Masses on a first-come, first served basis. Unfortunately, we do not have unlimited capacity. Once the church building is full according to the socially-distanced-3-feet-apart cap, we'll seat people in the overflow seating in the Legacy Room. We apologize for the inconvenience, but our goal is to keep all people safe. As you're seated, we'll try to accommodate requests to sit in a particular location. To minimize contact, we'll only be able to seat groups when all members of the group are present. We recommend that you arrive early as the seating process takes longer than pre-COVID days. To minimize distractions for those already seated, once Mass has started, we'll begin seating people in the Legacy Room. Again, we realize that these restrictions are inconvenient, but we ask you to be patient with us.

Perhaps even more exciting than those changes are the changes within our liturgies, especially Mass:

No registration or reservation necessary for Mass

No unused pews

Singing is permitted (even if with masks)!!

The Offertory Procession is restored

(but the collection basket will not be passed)

The Sign of Peace is restored (but contactless)

Holy Water for blessing oneself is permitted (but limited - no font)

Please continue to remember your offertory sacrifice. Your gift is always to God and God uses your generosity to help others encounter Christ in and through our community. We won't pass the basket, but we'll have baskets at the ready for you at all of the Masses. Of course, you can also offer your gift through Faith Direct, by visiting our website, through pay-pal, or by mailing your envelope to the pastorate office. Thank you always for your generosity.

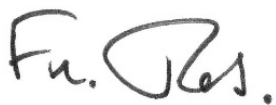
We'll still require people to be seated after the Recessional Song so all can be dismissed in a socially distant fashion. Also, we cannot allow people to congregate inside the building, so we'll direct people in and out quickly through the narthex. People will be able to greet me and one another outside in the courtyard.

With the exception of servers, we are lifting any COVID restrictions covering the liturgical ministers. Anyone who feels comfortable and is willing to serve as Sacristan, Greeter, Lector, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is encouraged to do so. Please contact Mrs. Kathy Hofer at [khofer@hfccmd.org](mailto:khofer@hfccmd.org). We will start utilizing servers shortly, once our young people have had a chance to be vaccinated.

Currently, these expanded opportunities are being offered only for Masses and liturgies. We are slowly expanding the welcome to include other groups and meetings essential to the Mission of the Pastorate. For example, the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Conference of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society has already begun to meet in person as have the Knights of Columbus. Please stay tuned for more information and for further changes in procedures by checking our website, [www.ThePastorate.com](http://www.ThePastorate.com) regularly and remaining vigilant for additional emails and other updates.

The most exciting thing for me is to see in person all those people I have missed. As we begin this Year of the Eucharist, please know of my continued thoughts and prayers especially at Mass for you and for your families and for all those you love. I remain,

Yours in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Jaskot" with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Rev. Msgr.) Robert J. Jaskot,  
Pastor