

Clergy News

- from Bishop Colli's Office
June 10, 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON CHURCH OPENINGS:

Reverend Fathers:

With the Province announcing the opening of places of worship we need to set into operation certain tasks for reopening. A plan for the diocese is being developed by Bishop Colli and the Council of Priests. Their meeting is next week to prepare this plan. In the meantime each parish should do the following:

1. Pick one or two responsible people to assist the pastor in following the plan. (vg. deacons, ministers of service, ushers etc)
2. Purchase some non-surgical masks and rubber gloves from Canadian Tire or any store. You will probably need around 100 to start.
3. Purchase some hand sanitizers for the doors of you church and for the sacristy. Wall mounted units can be ordered or use bottled units. Be sure to have enough on hand for each door and the sacristy.
4. For social distancing, mark every second pew in you church with a marker on a six foot span, so people will know where they can sit. This will give you a good idea as to how many people you can accommodate.
5. For social distancing mark your main aisles with tape at six foot distances so people know how to space themselves for Holy Communion.
6. Make sure washrooms are clean and sanitized.
7. Cry rooms are to be closed and no children's liturgy will be allowed.
8. Prepare secure containers to receive collections at the doors of your church. No collections are allowed during Mass.
- 9 Collect all hymn books - no congregational singing at this time.
10. The diocesan plan will give you directions for all the parts of the Mass, for cantors and choirs, readers, deacons and servers, and the distribution of Holy Communion. Please take these steps now - so we can open all churches by the weekend of June 27-28th at the latest.

Thank you.

+*Fred J. Colli*

Bishop of Thunder Bay