

2021 Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Dear Parishioners of St. Paul Parish:

Last year during Holy Week and Easter, the Friars celebrated the most holy days of the year alone except for Deacon Don, a few lectors, a cantor, and our organist Jeff Batter. This year we are looking forward to having parishioners once again in church with us! The Holy Week and Easter schedule on the reverse side was designed using the results of an in-pew and online survey of parishioners that we conducted last month. Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey.

On February 1st Governor Lamont increased the capacity for attendance in Houses of Worship to 50%. While 50% of capacity for St. Paul Church is about 375 people we are limiting attendance at each Mass to about 250, or 33%, so as to assure that the appropriate social distancing is maintained. The same ratio is being used at Sacred Heart where we have established the maximum to be 75. Recall that at Christmas capacity at St. Paul was 100 and 50 at Sacred Heart. **To stay within these limits tickets will be needed to attend Mass/Services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. The procedure for signing up and how you will receive your tickets is explained in # 5 below.**

While there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel, and we are seeing a gradual increase in the number of people attending Mass each weekend, Archbishop Blair has extended the dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. If you are healthy and feel comfortable attending Mass I invite you to join us for these most holy days of the year. *You should not attend if you or anyone in your household is ill, especially with fever or flu-like symptoms or conjunctivitis. Likewise, the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, those who are fearful or anxious, and those who are taking care of a sick or homebound person need not be concerned if they miss Mass.* All of the Masses from St. Paul Church will be live streamed and can be accessed through the parish's web site live or at a later time.

Before you look over the schedule, I share a few observations that are important to understanding why some elements of the schedule are the way are.

1. On Holy Thursday only one Mass of the Lord's Supper is permitted.
2. On Good Friday, ordinarily there should only be one celebration of the Lord's Passion, but an additional one can be scheduled if needed. Given the survey results we have added a second Good Friday service at 7 p.m. this year in addition to our customary one at 3 p.m.
3. The Easter Vigil Mass is the most sacred and unique liturgy of the entire year. The liturgy begins in complete darkness and as a result cannot begin until after sunset and dusk has passed. This Mass often lasts between 120-150 minutes. For all of these reasons there can only be one Easter Vigil Mass and it will begin at 8:00 p.m.
4. We have scheduled six Masses on Easter Sunday with four (4) at St. Paul and two (2) at Sacred Heart. The times of the Masses are NOT those of our regular Sunday schedule so that we can have the time needed to clean the church properly in between Masses. With the increased capacity mentioned above NO Masses will be celebrated in the school gym. St. Paul Church Hall will serve as an overflow (that is if the church is full) for up to 44 people with the Mass being live streamed and would include the distribution of Holy Communion at the appropriate time in the Mass.
5. **To attend Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Mass/Service you MUST sign up on the parish web site or by calling the office. Those who do so on line will be able to print out their own tickets from home. Those who call the Parish Center we will either mail your tickets to you or you can pick them up in the office. No tickets will be mailed after March 26th and the last date to pick them up will be Thursday, April 1. The office will be closed on Good Friday, April 2.**
6. Please consult the Holy Week Schedule for opportunities to go to confession. Palms will be distributed at all Masses on Palm Sunday and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Green parking lot as we did last year. See the schedule for Food Blessing times on Holy Saturday.

(Over)

2021 Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday Weekend - March 27 & 28

(Palm will be available at all of the Masses)

Saturday, March 27

Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Passion (Palm) Sunday, March 28

Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

Distribution of Palm: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (Parish Green PL)

Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week March 29 - 31

Masses: Mon., Tues., & Wed. - 7 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Adoration: Monday, March 29 - 7 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30 - 4 to 5 p.m.

Holy Thursday - April 1

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper (Ticket Needed)

*Adoration until 10 p.m. with Night Prayer

Good Friday - April 2

(Parish Offices Closed and Re-open on Tues., April 6)

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

12 Noon Stations of the Cross

12:30 p.m. Confessions until 2 p.m.

3:00 p.m. 1st Good Friday Service (Ticket Needed)

7:00 p.m. 2nd Good Friday Service (Ticket Needed)

Holy Saturday - April 3

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

12 Noon Blessing of Food (Parish Green Parking Lot**)

1:00 p.m. Blessing of Food (St. Paul Church)

** Weather permitting - Otherwise in St. Paul Church

Easter Vigil - April 3

Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 p.m. (Ticket Needed)

Easter Sunday - April 4 (Ticket needed for all Masses)

Mass times at St. Paul are not at the usual times.

Masses at St. Paul: 7:00, 8:45, 10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

Masses at Sacred Heart: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. & 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

All Mondays during Lent: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Good Friday: 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Confessions will not be heard on Holy Saturday.

COVID-19 Protocols Remain in Place

- You must wear a mask or face covering at all times.
- Maintain social distancing at all times, keeping six feet apart, the best you can.
- You may sit in the un-rope pews in both wings of the church. Members of the same household can be seated in the same pew regardless of how many are in the pew. Those not from the same household should sit one person per kneeler in the row.
- Instructions for the reception of Communion (in the hand) will be given before Mass.
- Do not shake hands or otherwise make physical contact with others. The Sign of Peace will not be exchanged and the Holy Water fonts are empty.

Triduum in Celebration of the Year of St. Joseph

March 16 - 18 culminating on the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19

On December 8, 2020, on the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph being named the Patron Saint of the Universal Church, Pope Francis announced that this year of 2021 would be the Year of St. Joseph. The Holy Father said, "Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."

Our Triduum celebration will consist of three **Evenings of Reflection** on March 16, 17 & 18 focusing on different aspects of the life of St. Joseph. The schedule each evening will be:

6:30 p.m. - Mass

7:00 p.m. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7:15 p.m. - Reflection on St. Joseph and some quiet time

7:45 p.m. - Litany to St. Joseph followed by Benediction

Then on the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19th we will have a concluding Mass at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join for all or some of the evenings. Each evening's reflection is independent of the other as is each day's Mass. One of the Friars will lead each evening's program. Following Mass on March 19th we will have some safely distanced refreshments to celebrate the Feast!

Prayer to St. Joseph: "Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen." (Pope Francis)