

May 12, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Most Reverend Robert Baker has issued a decree and guidelines for the restoration of public worship in the Diocese of Birmingham. **Beginning Friday, May 15th, Our Lady of the Lake Parish will return to its normal weekly Mass schedule.** Weekday masses will be as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Weekend masses will be Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 4:00-4:45 on Saturday in the conference room in the parish hall.

Bishop Baker has issued a new dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation. If you believe that it is not safe to be in crowds, that is reason enough to avoid attending Mass at this time. We will continue to record the Saturday evening Mass for viewing on Facebook and You Tube.

The State of Alabama recommends the wearing of facial coverings and maintaining a six-foot distance between yourself and anyone who does not live in your household. These are recommended guidelines for everyone's safety. They are not requirements and we will do our best to accommodate everyone who shows up for Mass while trying to keep everyone safe. It may be that some people will have to watch Mass on a television in the parish hall.

The missalettes have been removed from the church. For weekend masses we plan to use a disposable worship booklet. If you have your own mass missal, (For example: Word Among Us or Our Daily Bread) you may want to bring it with you.

Because of the required social distancing, fewer liturgical ministers will be needed for each mass. New schedules are being developed. This weekend, ministers will be contacted by phone or email. Future schedules will be posted in the bulletin.

Communion will be available to all who wish to receive it. I ask that everyone disinfect their hands and remove gloves and face coverings before receiving communion in the hand. Hand sanitizer will be available, but you may want to bring your own. The ushers will direct you where to go to receive communion.

These restrictions may change once we have returned to our normal schedule and discover what works best for our parish. Please continue to pray for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Bill Lucas