

*St. Stanislaus Kostka Church*  
*201 Buckbee St.*  
*Rockford, Il 61104*  
*www.st-stanislaus.org*



Dear Parishioners,

In his letter to the faithful, Bishop David J. Malloy stated that the Diocese of Rockford will resume public celebration of Holy Masses in church. This is a multi-phase plan made in agreement with the office of the Governor of Illinois and will begin on Monday, May 25th. However, before we open our church to the public for Masses, we need to follow directives implemented by the Diocese.

Here are some of them:

- Daily Masses will be offered as scheduled:
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 am
  - Wednesdays at 12:00 pm
  - Fridays at 7:00 am (English) and 6:00 pm (Polish)

Beginning the weekend of May 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>, we will be adding additional Masses. This schedule will be:

- Saturdays at 4:30 pm (English), 6:00 pm (Polish)
- Sundays at 9:00 am (English), 11:00 am (Polish), 1:00 pm (Polish-English)

Beginning Monday, May 25, 2020, Masses will resume with reduced capacity: only 10 (or less) people may be in the Church at one time. As we prepare to resume the services in church, our parish office will be open from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday to take reservations over the phone for one Mass slot. The parish office number is 815-965-3913. We will take reservations on a “First come, first serve” basis. Remember we only have 10 spots for each Mass, so please understand and sign up only once so every parishioner has a chance to attend Mass while the 10 person limit is in place.

At this time the attendance is open only to registered parishioners. Per Diocese recommendations, persons 65 years and older and those at risk should stay at home for the time being.

What should you expect when you arrive to church:

- Make sure you park your car in the large parking lot, leaving enough space between other cars.
- You must arrive to church at least 15 minutes prior to the Mass for which you have signed up for.
- If you feel ill or have been exposed, please stay home to protect your fellow parishioners. Upon your arrival your temperature may be taken, and if you show any signs of illness, you will be asked to return home.

- We will have only one door open, please follow the signs.
- There will be a greeter to check you in and an usher to help you to get seated (sorry, but there will be no sitting in your usual spot).
- The use of hand sanitizer will be required before entering the church.
- The faithful present at Mass must wear a mask (except for when receiving Holy Communion).
- Social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained at all times: when entering and leaving the Church, while sitting between non-family members, and during the Communion procession. Members of a single household who arrive together do not need to practice social distancing and may sit together.
- Seating will begin at the front of the Church as people arrive to keep distancing and good order (as mentioned prior, ushers will show you where can you sit).
- There will be no collection baskets passed during Mass. The baskets will be located by the church entrance. At this time, I want to thank everyone for your continued financial support of our parish.
- There will be no procession of the offertory gifts of bread and wine, holding hands at the Our Father, and Sign of Peace.
- The reception of Holy Communion may take place only in the hand (no gloves).
- If you are not comfortable to receive Holy Communion, you are not required to do so. Instead you may make a Spiritual Communion.
- In the Communion line, people are to come up in single file line, maintaining a distance of 6 feet from the person in front of them.
- When the priest exits the church after Mass is ended, there will be no hand shaking with the priest; please proceed to the exit using the markings on floor. Please do not stay in church for private prayers after Mass, we need that time to clean and disinfect the church for the next service.
- No social gatherings may take place before or after Mass.

We want to thank you for your cooperation in these unprecedented times. We will keep you informed about further updates from the Diocese. For the time-being, please follow our Facebook page or our website for new guidelines. If you have any questions, please call Margaret at the parish office at 815-965-3913.

In Christ,

Fr. Mieczyslaw Wit, OFM Conv.  
Pastor