



July 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been four weeks since we have been able to open our church doors for Masses. We are overjoyed at receiving the Eucharist! We are grateful for all the volunteers who have come forth as sanitizers, ministers of hospitality, and ushers. This has allowed us to celebrate Masses at St. Catherine of Sweden on Saturdays at 4 PM and Sundays at 9:15 AM; and at St. Richard on Saturdays at 5 PM and Sundays at 10 AM.

We are still in need of more volunteer sanitizers for Saturday evening Masses. The only way we can continue to offer these Masses is with this volunteer effort. If you are able to help with this, please contact Mary Jordan at St. Richard (Mary@saintrich.org) or Deacon Cliff Homer at St. Catherine of Sweden (deaconcliff@scospgh.org) or call the parish offices.

Weekday Masses continue to be celebrated at 9 AM on Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Catherine of Sweden and Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Richard.

In an effort so serve the population of the parish who may feel more vulnerable coming inside the church buildings or around crowds, beginning this Sunday, July 5 at 12 Noon, and continuing each Sunday until further notice, we will offer distribution of Holy Communion outdoors at St Richard Church. You do not need to pre-register or sign in for this. The requirements are that you must have first watched Mass for that Sunday prior to coming to communion - either our livestreamed Mass, or Mass online from another church, or a televised Mass. You should arrive at St. Richard Church parking lot no later than 11:50 AM and follow the signs and directions of the parking lot attendants, and stand beside your vehicle. After the prayers before Holy Communion, you will be instructed to come forward under the portico near the front doors of the church where the communion stations will be located. You must wear a facemask while in line, and stay distanced at least 6 feet apart. As always during this pandemic, the preferred way to receive Holy Communion is in the hand. Once receiving Communion, you may return to your vehicle while making a prayer of thanksgiving and exit the parking lot. If you have difficulty in walking from the parking lot to the portico, please let the attendants know, and Communion will be brought to you.

Beginning Monday, July 6, you will no longer have to pre-register to attend weekday Masses Monday through Thursday, but you will still be required to sign-in as you enter the church. **However, for Masses on Saturday and Sunday, you will still need to signup online or by phone.** You can register for Saturday and Sunday Masses by accessing the parish website at www.stcatherineofsweden.org or www.saintrichardparish.org, or by calling the parish offices at 412-486-6001 or 724-444-1971.

Also, beginning Monday, July 6, our churches will no longer be open from Noon to 6 PM for private prayer during the week. More and more of the faithful are opting to return to weekday Masses rather than making a private visit to the church during the day. Therefore, we must conserve resources (air conditioning, lights, sanitizing, attendants) and utilize them where most needed.

Portable tabernacles will continue to remain visible in the narthex of both churches from outside the front doors. For those wishing to come anytime to pray in the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle, you will be closer to the tabernacle than you would be inside the church!

The following is a review of the procedures for attending Mass inside the church buildings:

Because the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted, if you have a flexible schedule, please consider receiving the Eucharist during a weekday Mass where the attendance will be lighter than on the weekend.

- Social distancing and proper sanitation will be observed.
- Those over the age of 65 with vulnerable health conditions are encouraged not to attend Mass in person.
- If you are experiencing any signs of illness (cough, runny nose, fever, etc.), for the safety of others, please do not attend Mass in person.
- You must wear a face mask. Masks may only be removed when receiving Holy Communion.
- All those entering the building must use hand sanitizer as they enter and exit.
- You must sit in the designated pews (designated by red or blue bows) and leave at least 6 feet in between families. Please follow the directions from the ministers of hospitality.
- Holy Communion will be distributed after Mass to all those in attendance. Please follow the directions of the ministers of hospitality for how to receive Holy Communion while maintaining proper social distancing.
- The preferred way to receive Holy Communion is in the hand.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed during Holy Communion.
- You must leave the church immediately following your reception of Holy Communion - do not return to your seat – go directly to your vehicle.
- Holy Water fonts will remain empty.
- All hymnals and worship aids have been removed.
- There will be no holding hands at the Our Father, and no Sign of Peace.
- If you have not yet signed up to make your financial contribution online, please drop your offertory envelope in the designated bin in the narthex when you enter or exit the church.

Please know that Father Chris, Deacon Gary, Deacon Cliff, and I keep our faith community in prayer each day. May the Lord continue send abundant blessings upon you and your families and may we continue to pray for each other as it will keep us close at heart!

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Robert J. Vular
Administrator
Grouping #446 Hampton/Richland