

Welcome to Weekend Mass at St. Francis Xavier!

The State of Illinois is now in Phase 5 of the State reopening plan. **Thank you** to the many volunteers who made it possible for us to keep our parish church open over the past eleven months, and to those who have been praying for our return to full communion. That time is upon us!

For the past year, the parish Reopening Team has carefully avoided sudden changes at Sunday Mass to provide a reasonable level of comfort for worshippers. As we move forward, the following changes are **now in effect**:

- ✦ **Reservations are no longer required** for any Mass.
- ✦ **All church doors are open** and available for all worshippers.
- ✦ **Greeters will greet you** at the door and answer any questions.
- ✦ **Hand sanitizer is available** but is not required.
- ✦ **Masks are required only** for those over age 2 who have not yet been fully vaccinated.
- ✦ **Unity Hall is open to families with small children** to provide the option to view Mass remotely at the Saturday 5PM Mass and the Sunday 9AM and 11AM Masses. Unity Hall is open only to families with small children.
- ✦ **Ribbons** mark the ends of every other pew in the back of church and in the east transept. This provides 6 foot social distance for those not yet comfortable with being any closer. All pews in the rest of the church are available for general seating.
- ✦ **Offerings can be deposited in the collection boxes** at the Ogden Avenue and both side doors. No collection will be taken during the Preparation of the Gifts.
- ✦ **We invite the assembly to sing!** Pick up a bulletin as you enter church; it will include the words to all hymns for that weekend. Or, you can access the bulletin electronically via phone or tablet. Place any bulletins you are not taking home in the recycle baskets located at each door.
- ✦ We ask all worshippers to **respect the comfort level of others**, especially during the **Sign of Peace**. Some may still be uncomfortable with more than a nod, a wave, or a smile.
- ✦ An usher will let you know when your pew can come forward for **communion**. Sanitizer is available at the front of each aisle for those who prefer to use it before receiving the host.
- ✦ **Vigil lights have been returned** to the sanctuary and side shrines. Please respect social distancing when lighting candles and when placing your donation in the special collection boxes.

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

Fr. Bill