



# Most Precious Blood Parish

*Giáo Xứ Máu Châu Báu Chúa*

445 White Horse Pike – West Collingswood, NJ 08107

Tel: 856-854-0364 - Fax: 856-869-5129

June 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I pray and hope this pastoral letter finds you safe and sound during this pandemic. As you all know, our parish has been closed since March 17<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19; I am sure many of you miss coming to church. Remember the dispensation for the faithful from the obligation to participate in mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains in effect. Also, all Catholics in the Diocese of Camden are likewise dispensed from the requirement to make their Easter duty this year. With joyful news, Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan, Bishop of the Diocese of Camden has announced that all parishes in our diocese will reopen for daily mass on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with a limit of only 10 people, and June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for weekend masses with 25% of the normal seating capacity, approximately 168 seats. This is phase 1 of reopening for the state of New Jersey. We pray and hope that our church will resume a normal schedule soon afterwards. With phase 1 of reopening, here are some guidelines from the parish and the office of Fr. Hughes, Vicar General for all masses:

1. The following parishioners are encouraged to stay home:
  - Those with respiratory illness, flu, cold, cough, and individuals that do not feel well.
  - The elderly and families with young children who may find it difficult to maintain a six-foot distance from others.
2. Following current public health recommendations, the faithful should wear cloth face coverings when in public, including when they come to church. Children under 2 are exempt. If you don't have your face mask, the parish will provide you with one. (It's washable and can be reused).
3. **Weekday masses:** (8:30AM English mass & 6:00PM Vietnamese mass) Weekday Masses will be held in the main church. Please continue to maintain social distancing of 6 feet apart. For your convenience, seating will be marked with tape. There is only one entrance through the parking lot glass door and one exit on the lawn side next to the sanctuary, by the statue of the Divine Mercy, on weekday Masses.
4. **Weekend masses:** (SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00PM in English & SUNDAY: 7:00AM in Vietnamese, 9:00AM in English, 11:00AM in Vietnamese) There have been slight changes in our mass schedule, (Sunday masses at 7:30AM is moved to 7:00AM and 10:30AM mass is moved to 11:00AM) each mass will be timed for two hours. This allows our volunteers time in between each mass to spray and disinfect as well as allowing parishioners more time to vacate the parking lot. If you see them spraying before mass, please do not enter the church until they are done disinfecting.
5. Members of a single household do not need to practice physical distancing with each other and may sit together in the same row. Seating will also be marked with tape. There are **THREE** entrances: one through the rear parking lot glass door, one on the lawn side next to the gazebo, and the third one is our main stained-glass double doors. There are **THREE** exits: one on the lawn side next to the sanctuary, by the statue of the Divine Mercy, one by the side door of the rectory parking, and the third one is the side double door by the main entrance (Please note that some of these doors are different; certain doors will be only used for entrances or exits). Traffic flow will be marked by white tape. Parishioners over the 25% seating capacity will be directed to attend our live-streamed mass in the Merciful Hall. Seats in church will be based on a first come first served basis. Ushers/volunteers will assist with seating as well as traffic flow.
6. Hand sanitizer will be dispensed at all entrances and exits. Please use them upon entering and exiting the church.
7. Long-handled collection baskets will be used but the ushers will maintain a suitable distance from others.

8. The congregation will be dismissed by rows at the end of mass to avoid crowding at the exits.
9. The following are omitted at all mass until further instructions: altar servers, offertory procession, holding hands for the Our Father, and the sign of peace.
10. Holy Communion will be distributed **AFTER** the celebration of all masses. The Precious Blood **WILL NOT** be distributed. The faithful should remove any face coverings before coming forward for Holy Communion. Holy Communion may not be distributed with gloves, nor may it be received in the hand if a member of the faithful is wearing gloves. During Phase 1, the faithful are encouraged to not receive Holy Communion on the tongue. The faithful may depart after making a brief prayer of thanksgiving using only the EXIT doors and maintaining physical distancing – volunteers may assist in giving directions.

As for the celebration of the Sacraments, here are the guidelines:

1. **Sacrament of Baptism for Infants** – Physical distancing will continue with the exception of twins or multiple children in the same immediate family. Baptisms will be celebrated one child at a time.
2. **Easter Sacraments** – The baptism and/or reception into the full communion of those who were prepared for the Easter Vigil is postponed until the Fall. Bishop Sullivan's Office will provide further information about a suitable date(s) for these celebrations.
3. **Sacrament of Confirmation** – In PHASE 1, the celebration of Confirmation will not take place. Bishop Sullivan's Office will provide further information about a suitable date(s) for these celebrations.
4. **First Holy Communion** – This sacrament may be celebrated but must observe all of the protocols in place for PHASE 1 (including the limit of no more than 25% occupancy in the church).
5. **Sacrament of Matrimony** – Weddings will be celebrated following the protocols in place for the celebration of Mass. If a wedding needs to be celebrated before restrictions are lifted, permission needs to be granted from the diocese.
6. **Sacrament of Penance** – All current precautions and protocols regarding the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance remain in place. DRIVE-UP confessions continue to be prohibited.
7. **Funerals** – Pastors may celebrate funeral Masses in the parish church as long as all protocols for physical distancing are applied. Funeral directors will need to explain the limits on the number of people who may be in attendance and the requirement of masks.
8. **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** – All current precautions and protocols remain in place.

Over the past three months, there have been no collections at masses. Thankfully, people have generously donated and sent in their contributions through the mail. Please continue to think about our financial needs during this hard time and if possible, continue to mail in your collections so that we can continue to run the parish smoothly. We appreciate and are thankful to everyone who have continued to support the parish!

I know things will be very different once we resume public mass. We may not like the new guidelines but please remember that they are there to protect you, your family, and your fellow parishioners. This global pandemic has taken over 100,000 American lives and counting and until we have a vaccine, we all have to take precautions and adjust accordingly to this so-called "new life". Please continue to pray for the world, for America, for our families, and our parish.

Please fill it out the pink piece of paper and return it to the parish using the envelope provided, as to which mass you and your family will be attending as well as a how many people will attend so that we can safely prepare for when the church reopens. Over the past couple of weeks, various volunteers have helped disinfect the church inside and out as well as spruce it up by cleaning everything by hand and repolishing the pews. We wish to see everyone soon! If you are not comfortable with going to mass in person, masses will still be held on line on our Facebook page ([facegbook.com/mpbparish2](https://www.facebook.com/mpbparish2)). Be safe and may God bless you all.

Sincerely yours,

*Fr. Joseph Nguyen*

Name of Household: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

What mass and how many people in your family will be attending (Please check the box):

☐ 5:00PM - English (Saturday Vigil) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ 7:00AM - Vietnamese (Sunday) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 9:00AM - English (Sunday) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ 11:00AM - Vietnamese (Sunday) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please return the attached slip by Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> or call 856-854-0364\**

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Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tên Người đứng đầu gia đình: \_\_\_\_\_

Số điện thoại: \_\_\_\_\_

Thánh Lễ nào và bao nhiêu người trong gia đình quý vị có thể đến tham dự. *(Xin đánh dấu X vào ô dưới đây):*

☐ 5:00PM - Tiếng Mỹ (Thứ Bảy thay Chúa Nhật):\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ 7:00AM - Tiếng Việt (Chúa Nhật)\_\_\_\_\_

☐ 9:00AM - Tiếng Mỹ (Chúa Nhật) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ 11:00AM - Tiếng Việt (Chúa Nhật)\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Xin vui lòng gọi trả lại văn phòng giáo xứ phản trả lời này trước ngày thứ Năm, 11 tháng 6, hoặc quý vị có thể gọi số giáo xứ (856) 854-0364. Chân thành cảm tạ!*

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