



**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
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[www.cathedralfortwayne.org](http://www.cathedralfortwayne.org)

Dear Cathedral Parish Community,

May the peace of Christ be with you all. I know that peace seems hard to find these days. The pandemic that has affected all of our lives brings with it pain, fear, anxiety, illness, and even death. Yet, as Christians we proclaim that Christ has conquered sin and death. Therefore, our faith brings us peace and joy, even in the midst of pain and affliction. May the Good News of the Resurrection of Christ continue to help and guide us during the days to come.

I am writing this letter to speak to all of you about the resumption of our normal Mass schedule beginning with the 5:00 vigil Mass on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. I look forward to celebrating the Eucharist with all of you in our beautiful Cathedral Church. But, the celebration of public Masses comes with a grave responsibility to be as careful as we can. The diocese has provided us with guidelines for the celebration of Masses in a way that is safe and responsible. I am asking each of you to review these guidelines carefully and put them into practice. I cannot list every directive in this letter, but here are some of the important points. Individuals and families are to maintain a safe distance of 6 feet from other families or individuals. Congregations are asked to wear masks during the celebration of the Mass (of course you can take it down for the reception of communion). Persons over 65 years old, those with complicating health conditions, and sick persons are to refrain from attending Mass. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in place until at least August 15.

We will clean and disinfect high traffic areas between Masses. The priests will take extra precautions when distributing communion. We will not be using servers or extraordinary ministers of holy communion for the time being. Ushers will wash their hands immediately after taking up the collection. Hand sanitizer will be available at the various entries of Church. In short, I'm asking everyone to pitch in to make the celebration of Masses safe, responsible, and reverent. We will all do the best we can.

I am also writing to all of you to see if perhaps we could get some volunteers to help with the cleaning between Masses. Our supplies are short, so I may also need to ask for things like gloves or sanitizer. We have a supply right now, but purchasing these products is difficult.

I would like to encourage everyone to sign up for the Message in a Minute. The Flocknote system that I use for the Message also allows me to send out emails and texts, which come in handy for trying to relay information to the whole parish community. You can sign up to receive the emails by going to our parish website at [www.cathedralfortwayne.org](http://www.cathedralfortwayne.org). Also, you can find the latest directives from the diocese on our website as well.

Please know of my prayers for all of you during this pandemic. May Christ the Lord come to our assistance with his grace and peace.

God bless you all,

Fr. Jacob D. Runyon  
Rector and Pastor