

St. Gregory

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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September 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let me start by saying a huge "Thank you" for the wonderful welcome that you gave me last weekend. I really felt comfortable among you. It was a great privilege to start straight in by sharing in the community grief at David Scheibl's funeral and then the very next day to share in the joy of welcoming the newest member of our community of faith with the baptism of little Liam.

As I mentioned at Mass, I shall be here until the Sunday before Thanksgiving which is the 22nd of November. If there is anything which you would like or want me to do, all you have to do is ask and if it's at all possible, consider it done. You can reach me through either parish office or on my cell phone at 920-286-4077.

That said, I want to be clear that mine is a temporary stay so I will not be making major changes or starting great initiatives. I see my role as a caretaker, charged with keeping things ticking and handing on to the next pastor a community which is thriving just as much as it is right now.

I sincerely hope that I can continue the work of my predecessors and help the people of School Hill and St. Nazianz to experience the tender, loving care of the God Who has called us to be His people.

May that very Lord shower His blessings upon you and your loved ones.

God Bless,
Fr. Robert

- *Fr. Robert Mitchell has been appointed Temporary Administrator of St. Gregory and Holy Trinity Parishes through November 22.*
- *The Diocese of Green Bay has lifted the dispensation for the Obligation to participate in the Sunday Mass effective the weekend of September 19-20, 2020. Enclosed are guidelines intended to help us provide an opportunity for you to encounter Christ in the liturgy of the Church.*
- *Also enclosed is a "Returning to Mass Survey". Please take a moment to answer the questions to help our parish community carry out the ministry of caring for and serving each other, as we have been called by Christ. Return surveys by Friday, October 30, 2020.*

Guidelines for Reinstatement of the Sunday Obligation Effective the weekend of September 20, 2020

- If individual Catholics struggle with serious health concerns, are caring for an ill loved one, or are morally prevented from worshipping at Mass for a grave reason, this obligation does not apply.
- If individuals are frail due to illness or age and in their well-formed consciences believe that going into public places – including Sunday worship at Mass – would place their health or the health of their loved ones in serious jeopardy, they too are not bound by this obligation.
- Those with symptoms of illness such as cough or fever, even if not COVID-19 related, in the spirit of Christian charity, should remain home.

What to Expect at Mass

- Masks remain required. If a member of the faithful is not able to wear it, they will still be admitted.
- Temperatures will continue to be taken – either at the forehead or the wrist.
- Hand sanitizer and masks will remain available near the entrance of church.
- Holy water fonts will remain empty.
- Hard surfaces will continue to be wiped down between Masses.
- Hymnals will not be placed in pews. They continue to be available for your personal use (take home and bring back for each Mass).
- No longer restricted by percentage of people present for Mass. However, standards of social distance must be upheld and therefore may limit attendance.
- The faithful are encouraged to avoid crowding, especially in high-traffic areas (when entering or exiting the church, in the vestibule, etc)

Specific Provisions for the Parts of the Mass

- The celebrant and other ministers should remain more than 6 feet from the congregation during the entirety of the Mass, if possible.
- Music will continue to be offered by a cantor and a musician.
- Collections will continue to be collected in a basket at the entrances.
- Offertory procession of *bread and wine only* will resume.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

- The Precious Blood will not be distributed to the faithful.
- Those ministering communion must wear a mask and use hand sanitizer before and after distribution.
- Holy Communion will be received in the normal way, using a single file line.