

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

2438 South Alston Avenue - Durham, NC 27713

June 11, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Holy Cross,

Thank you for all your patience and cooperation during the pandemic which has restricted our ability to worship within our beautiful church home. Now we have a current goal of moving our parish slowly toward normal operations in a safe and effective way. Government officials have reduced statewide mask mandates and social distancing requirements. This is a clear indication that receiving vaccinations is the best way to protect ourselves and eliminate community spread of COVID-19. We continue to urge all parishioners to get vaccinated.

The COVID-19 threat remains but our faith community has been blessed to be able to look forward to a gradual reopening of Holy Cross. Our goal throughout has been to operate in a safe manner so as to protect the health of all members of our beloved community.

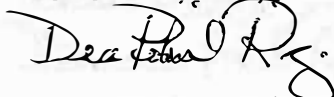
We are easing up on restrictions and limitations at Holy Cross on **June 20, Father's Day. Mass indoor capacity will be increased to 100 registrations** (this includes the ministers who assist in celebration of the Mass). We plan on **increasing** this capacity gradually by **July 18**, the date of the installation of our new pastor. Please join us in this effort to safely increase attendance in person at Holy Cross. Live streaming of the 10 AM Mass will continue to be available, as we move to fully resume the activities, ministries, and the Holy Eucharist that are important to our parish life in the next few weeks and months to come. We aim to have as many of us as possible personally welcome our new pastor, Fr. Pius Wekesa, when he is officially installed on July 18 by Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama.

Our new guidelines begin on June 20. As each individual approaches the church portico, masks are to be worn at all times! Temperature screening will continue in the Gathering Space. Entry will be through the portico doors only. **Exiting from the sanctuary will be through the two sanctuary doors on the parking lot side of the building.** Pay attention to the directions of the ushers for when to exit the sanctuary at the end of Mass. Offertory baskets will be placed at the entry to the sanctuary and at the two exit doors.

Restrooms in the Gathering Space **will be accessible** and stocked with disinfectant wipes for before and after use. Hymnals and worship aids will still not be available. You are invited to bring your own personal worship aids. Bishop Zarama continues to dispense the faithful from their Sunday obligation. While this dispensation is applicable to all, it is continued primarily for the elderly, sick, those who have pre-existing health conditions or other vulnerable people.

We express our gratitude to the Opening-Up Committee of the Pastoral Council for their counsel and to all our liturgical ministers who have enabled us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in person and through livestream services.

Peace and All Good



Deacon Phil Rzewnicki, OFS
Interim Administrator



Ron Patterson
Pastoral Council Chair