

May 12, 2020

Dear Friends of St. Matthew,

Greetings and abundant blessings to you and your families!

It has been a joy for me and our priests to welcome so many parishioners for Holy Communion. It is our hope and top priority to welcome as many individuals and families as possible for Holy Communion in the days and weeks ahead.

Starting tomorrow, we have increased the number of spaces for outdoor Holy Communion and the number of times each hour at which Holy Communion is distributed. We have been able to include everyone who had been on our waiting list into the additional spaces for this week. Please remember that Bishop Jugis' dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in effect.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to provide challenges for us all. At St. Matthew, frequent outdoor Holy Communion services take place several times a week. Only priests and deacons will distribute Holy Communion wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). They will continue to purify and sanitize their hands properly in between each individual communicant.

Weddings are now permitted and can be celebrated with no more than 10 people; funerals for our departed parishioners may now be celebrated with up to 50 in attendance. We are also able to celebrate the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults with the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation in groups of 10. Our Waxhaw campus, Daily Mass Chapel and our Adoration Chapel will be closed until at least the end of Phase I. These spaces cannot be properly sanitized because of soft surfaces. Most parish ministries remain suspended.

Phase II guidelines will be released when we are able to accommodate at least 25% capacity in the church. The safety and well-being of our parishioners is of utmost concern. We will continue to keep you apprised of developments.

Our efforts to keep our parish Connected in Christ continue with our streaming of daily and Sunday Masses, spiritual communion, and opportunities for communion outside. We continue our work of evangelization and outreach to those in need. Please visit our Faith and Family page on our website to learn how you can help. Your generous stewardship and ongoing offertory support is critical in these challenging times. Offertory gifts may be made through FaithDirect.net using our church code NC36, your online bill pay option or by mailing your donation to St. Matthew Catholic Church; Business Office; P. O. Box 49349; Charlotte, NC 28277.

During this month of May, let us honor Our Blessed Mother with daily devotion to prayer, especially the Rosary. May Our Lady and Saint Joseph continue to bless your family and all the families of our parish with the graces of Heaven.

Faithfully yours in the Lord,

Father John Allen
Parochial Administrator