

## GUIDELINES FOR OPENING ST. FRANCIS XAVIER DURING THE YELLOW STAGE

We at St. Francis Xavier Parish are very happy to have Adams County move to the yellow stage. With this opening, we have the added responsibility to keep all of our parishioners safe. Remember that any gathering will increase the risk of becoming ill. We have made preparations to ensure that we keep all attending parishioners safe while keeping our facilities open for worship. We ask that, in addition to the guidelines, you be attentive to the following seven principles:

1. **You will have 8 different options during the week to receive Holy Communion, and Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed.**
  - a. Bishop Gainer has dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass. Sunday Mass is not your only option. *During this time of pandemic, receiving communion on a weekday is just as good as receiving communion on Sunday.*
  - b. If you are worried about large crowd gatherings, please stay home and participate in our Sunday Masses online.

We especially encourage anyone belonging to the high-risk group (our older parishioners, anyone with chronic illnesses - especially if they are respiratory in nature, anyone who is at increased risk of getting ill) to stay home during this time.
  - c. If you are uncomfortable following our parish guidelines for Masses during this pandemic, please also stay home.
2. **The Liturgical experience will look different:**
  - a. Reduced singing and fewer musicians during Mass
  - b. No extraordinary ministers, altar servers, etc.
  - c. Distribution of Holy Communion will take additional time to ensure the safety of all.
3. **Your cooperation is essential. Yellow not only means ‘caution’, but stop if necessary.**

Please note that should we find ourselves unable to prevail in the logistical adherences, we may be forced to return to the red stage and end our opening.
4. **Remember that this is still the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.**

We are using less-than ideal means during these less-than-ideal circumstances in order to safely celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Such challenging circumstances should never let us lose sight that we are participating in ‘these sacred mysteries.’ Not only for safety reasons, but out of simple reverence, please refrain from socializing before, during, and after Masses.
5. **The Mass times, guidelines, and all other updated information, will be on the main page of the parish website ([stfxcc.org](http://stfxcc.org)).**
6. **Be Flexible and ‘Role with the Punches’:**

We are ‘flying the plane while building it during this time.’ Some changes may arise out of recognized imperfections or new information. In any event, *we kindly ask for your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we navigate through these unusual and trying times.* **Updates will be shown on this document in red font.**
7. **No mask, no admittance (see guidelines below for more details)**

Please stay safe and healthy. Please also continue to pray for our pastor, our dedicated volunteers, and our staff who continue to serve our parish family.

God bless you all,

Dr. Edward Szoke, MD  
Health Safety Officer

Fr. Andrew St. Hilaire  
Parochial Vicar

## WEEKDAY MASSES

### *The Historic Church*

If you attend any mass inside the Historic Church please note the following:

1. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing
2. The seating policy is as follows:
  - a) one household per row or
  - b) two people or couples per row, but sitting on opposite ends
  - c) Please do not sit in pews that are taped off.
3. Holy communion will be available after Mass has ended.
  - a) Akin to Mass on the weekends with reception of Holy Communion, you will proceed to the priest by practicing social distancing. You will lower your mask and receive the host.
  - b) ***The priest will distribute communion in the back of the Historic Church at the conclusion of Mass, one side at a time.***
  - c) Again it is recommended that you receive the blessed sacrament in your hand. If you want to receive the blessed sacrament on your tongue, we request that you wait until the end of the line. This is because the priest is required to sanitize his hands after every parishioner who receives the host on their tongue. After receiving the blessed sacrament you will quietly exit church. Please do not congregate in the vestibule or outside the church.
4. The single restroom in the vestibule will be available with the same procedures that are noted above for the outdoor Masses.
5. Unfortunately, the Historic Church is ***not*** open to private prayer during this time. We hope this changes in the near future where we can guarantee an adequate number of volunteers and have the early stages of returning proceed smoothly.

### *Xavier Center Multi-Purpose Room*

If you attend any mass inside the Xavier Center Multi-Purpose Room during the week, please note the following:

1. There are more than 20 rows of 7 seats in the Xavier Center  
The seating is similar to the Historic Church (one household or 2 people/couples sitting on the ends). In other words, single persons or couples of separate households must leave 3 empty seats between themselves and the other household in order to sit in the same row.
2. **Please do not rearrange the chairs in the Xavier Center. Again, families may sit together.**
3. As above, communion would occur after the mass concludes. The procedure would be the same as in the Historic Church and we again ask you to leave in silence, do not congregate in the vestibule or outside and leave the parking lot in a timely matter.
4. The single restroom down the main hall of the Xavier Center will be available with the same procedures that are noted above for the weekend Masses.

Please note that we will clean used areas after mass to continue best practices to keep everyone safe. Also, CDC guidelines (available in Appendix I) provide additional information concerning the virus, symptoms, and recommendations for public gatherings.

## GUIDELINES FOR OPENING ST. FRANCIS XAVIER - YELLOW STAGE

### **MASSES IN THE XAVIER CENTER PARKING LOT**

The weekend Masses at the Xavier Center parking lot will be done via live streaming and via an FM broadcast (specific station number will be shared when you arrive - it will also be on the parish website). Below are three key points regarding Masses in the parking lot that we would like you to take note:

1. **Please enter the parking lot ONLY through the bus entrance by the red barn** and park in the lot in front of the Xavier Center (directions will be given when you arrive). Please park in available spots that are closest to the Xavier Center as possible. We ask that you do not enter through the main entrance, *as that road will only be an exit*. We intend to have one way in, one way out.
2. **Park in every other space (in other words, leave one parking space between cars)**. If you do this you are welcome to roll down your windows and are not required to wear a mask. If the weather even permits, you can bring a lawn chair and sit outside in the parking lot on the condition that you respect the following guidelines:

Guidelines for Outdoor Seating:

- At least 6 feet of social distancing from both other people and their cars must be maintained
- Please sit in front of your vehicle in a direction pointing towards the Xavier Center. Please do not obstruct the flow of traffic with vehicles arriving. In order to ensure that no issues with parking traffic arise, you may need to wait until just a few minutes before the start of Mass to place your chairs outside.
- Chairs only, no use of personal tents. Having a personal, handheld umbrella for shade would be reasonable.
- If you feel the need to use sunblock or bug spray, please do such at home *before* you arrive at the Xavier Center. If an emergency requires it, please apply such in your vehicle.
- Food and water is permitted, but please only do such in case of necessity (e.g.. in order to be hydrated). We do not want anyone fainting during Mass. However, *it is still Mass. This is not a barbeque!*
- Again, reverence is expected. Please refrain from side conversations, especially during the celebration of Mass.

If all of the parking spaces become full, we will then permit individuals to park next to another car. However, you would then be asked to keep your windows rolled up and wear a mask.

3. **At the end of Mass, you will be instructed by a volunteer to drive your car to one of two Communion ‘stations’. When you arrive at the station, you will be instructed by a volunteer exit your vehicle and walk towards the priest to receive Holy Communion.**
- a) **Please wait until you receive instructions from the FM Radio Station or from a volunteer before leaving your parking space to drive in the communion line.**
  - b) Please continue social distancing throughout this process.
  - c) As mentioned before, when you arrive at the Communion station, you will get out of your car to receive Communion. ***You must wear a mask*** (excluding any exceptions articulated by the CDC in Appendix I) ***and sanitize your hands***. You may temporarily lower your mask to immediately receive communion.
  - d) *It is highly recommended that you receive the blessed sacrament in your hands during this time.* This will allow the priest to place the blessed sacrament in your hands to limit possible contamination. The priest will sanitize his hands as often as he feels necessary, or by request from the one receiving communion.
  - e) If you have a relative who is unable to attend Masses, but would like communion, please contact one of our priests to discuss some possibilities.
  - f) Then, please return to your car and exit out the main road to Table Rock Road. There will also be collection baskets near communion sites so that you can drop in your envelope.

*Usage of Restrooms:*

Restrooms will be available, *but limited* during liturgies. For the ‘drive-in Masses’, we hope to provide an outdoor restroom. Single restrooms in the Xavier Center will be available for weekday Masses. In any event, please observe the following instructions:

- Please limit your use to emergencies. If you must use the restroom please continue social distancing.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds (three Hail Marys). Dry your hands. There will either be disinfectant wipes or disinfectant spray with paper towels for you to wipe down places that you touched. Open the door using your wipe/paper towels. Deposit the used wipe and towels in the receptacle outside the restroom.
- **We would like any child under 10 years old to be accompanied by a parent.** The parent can go to the restroom with their child or they can wait outside. The parent would then be asked to wipe down the restroom and deposit the wipe in the receptacle outside the restroom when the child has finished.