

June 17, 2020



St. Walter Parish Newsletter

Issue 13, Vol. I

WHAT WILL THE “NEW ORDINARY TIME” LOOK LIKE?

Dear Parishioners of St. Walter-

Having celebrated the Feasts of Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Corpus Christi, we usually settle into the Ordinary Time of the church year. Ordinary Time takes us well into November until the Advent season. But as we gradually begin to re-open our churches, coming to church will be quite different from previous years.

First, I wish to thank all of you for your patience in this matter. I have had to give priority to look for a new principal for our school. With the help of the Principal Search Committee, we hope to have a principal in place by the end of this month. We are also awaiting approval for our school budget so teacher contracts can be signed. Once we have a principal in place and all the contracts signed, we will be able to move forward with our school for the 2020-2021 school year. Please pray that this will work well for everyone.

So how different will the “New Ordinary Time” look like? We have a team in place to help us in the Phase I of re-opening our church. Three prayer services are required to complete the first phase of re-opening. We will likely begin with a weekday Holy Hour service, Confessions, and a weekend Holy Hour service. We are still implementing requirements for social distancing but hope to provide these three events within the next couple of weeks.

Once we are certified to move into Phase II, then we can celebrate the Eucharist with a limited number in attendance. Through all of the phases, we need to be aware of some important changes that affect all of us. First, you will need to reserve a spot at Mass by calling the Rectory. Our staff will put your name on the list and review the guidelines with you. Even before we come to church, we need to check our temperature. Once we enter the parking lot, social distancing begins. As we enter church, our hands need to be sanitized. Remember to bring your mask or face covering. All of this is necessary even before we go to our bench. A designated person from our team will escort you to your reserved bench. You will notice that there are no hymnals or song books. Masks are worn during Mass except when we receive Holy Communion in the hand. Once Mass is ended, a designated person from the team will escort you through a different door from the one you entered. After Mass, those benches occupied by the parishioners will be sanitized.

Please remember that these protocols are for the safety of everyone who is in church. It will take some time to get adjusted to these “new rituals,” but I am confident all of us will cooperate as we place everyone’s safety first.

This is a sampling of what the “New Ordinary Time” will look like. We will be sending a parish mailing in the near future with a brochure entitled, “Tips For All Worshipers – What To Expect.” It breaks down what to do before you arrive, when you arrive, during the service, and after the service. We hope you will find this helpful.

In making your decision to return to church as we move forward with the re-opening process, please know that our parish is here to welcome you back whenever you are able. We will continue to provide a recorded Mass every week until our parish can re-open fully. Mass is posted every Sunday at 10:30am and can be accessed on our website (www.stwalterparish.com) and Facebook page (St. Walter Catholic Church – Chicago). You will be able to pray the Mass at your convenience as it is not being presented live.

Also available is a Holy Hour with Benediction recorded for the Feast of Corpus Christi. You may view this through the website or Facebook page as well. This recording provides time for spiritual reflection and communion through prayer by our Eucharistic adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Returning to church will certainly be different. But all of us are longing to be in church, to receive the Eucharist, and to pray with our fellow parishioners. This will make it all worthwhile.

Thank you again for your patience and looking forward to seeing all of you back in church.

***Yours in Christ,
Fr. Jim***

PARISH NEWS

PARISH RE-OPENING

We still need additional trained volunteers as we continue to move forward with the re-opening of our parish. Please seriously consider taking an active part in this process. Volunteers must be not over the age of 65; with no underlying medical condition such as diabetes; lung disease; or undergoing cancer treatment. To help, call the rectory at (773) 779-1515 or email me at stwalterchgo@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.

GIVING REMINDER

Thank you to those who have continued to contribute to our St. Walter parish family. We are grateful to be remembered during this challenging time. It is imperative that all of us support our parish with our prayers and our financial support. All we need to do is to bring our weekly contributions to the rectory and place in the mail slot in the front door. The rectory is located at 11722 S. Oakley Avenue.

If it is more convenient, you can donate online as so many have done. Here at St. Walter, we have two options:

1. Using Our Sunday Visitor which can be accessed through our parish website or directly at www.osvonlinegiving.com/4913
2. Through the Archdiocese's website www.archchicago.org/home and click on the red DONATE button at the top of the home page. Once you reach the Giving section of their website, "Universal Offertory Program" is the first choice

You can make a weekly offertory contribution to our St. Walter parish family while sheltering-in-place and keep our vital ministries going. We ask that you prayerfully consider maintaining your regular weekly donation level.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The June issue of the "Word Among Us" and current issues of the "Chicago Catholic" are available at the Rectory. The current issue of the "Chicago Catholic" has a very good article on outdoor shrines. Marytown in Libertyville happens to be one of them. That is the one that several of our parishioners enjoyed very much when we went there last fall. Please call the rectory at (773) 779-1515 to make pick-up arrangements.

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

We close this week's Newsletter with Pope Francis' monthly intention:

We pray for all who are suffering today.
May they find their way in life and allow themselves
to be touched by the very Heart of Jesus.