

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are delighted to inform you that beginning this Monday, May 18th, our church will once again be open for personal prayer. The hours will be from 9am-1pm and from 5pm-9pm Monday through Friday. The church will be sanitized daily from 1pm to 5pm while the church is closed. We request that during your personal visits to the church you wear a mask at all times and that you comply with the social distancing guidelines of at least 6 feet.

We do not know when public Masses will resume, but it looks like it will be in the coming weeks. We are relying on the recommendations from the authorities and from our Bishop. Once we know that public Masses will be resuming, we will pass that information along to you. We recommend that you download the MyParishApp and select St. Ann as your parish in order to keep up to date with all of our parish announcements. This app is available in the app store of your smartphones. All updates will also be available on our parish website

[\(<https://stannchurchwpb.org>\)](https://stannchurchwpb.org) and in our weekly bulletin. In order to properly prepare for the new reality that we will face together, we want to provide you with some of the measures that we will be taking in order to comply with the guidelines and keep everyone as safe as possible. First off, we are encouraging that the vulnerable, the elderly and the sick stay home. If you are sick, please do not come to Mass until you are well again, and if you are elderly or vulnerable, we ask that you please wait until further notice to resume your in-person attendance with us. We know this is difficult, and we miss you being with us more than you know, however, we need to be as safe and cautious as possible. Our Bishop is continuing to offer dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation for everyone, who, for whatever personal reason, is not comfortable with attending. We will continue to be offering Mass online via YouTube, Facebook and the Parish website. Again, we thank Radio Católica for making this possible. The current recommendations are that we limit Mass attendance to 25% of our capacity. In our church, we estimate that number to be around 75 people. We will add an additional Mass on the property to be celebrated concurrently if attendance reaches capacity. We will have ushers at the doors of the church showing you to your seats. We ask that you please follow the instructions of the ushers. Masks will be required inside the church and at any other location where Mass is being celebrated. We will practice social (physical) distancing of at least six feet, and the ushers will seat you accordingly in order that proper distance be maintained. As we all know, hand sanitizer is a rare commodity at this

point, and we will not be able to provide it for the community because we do not have it to give, so please bring your own. In the meantime we will continue to be on the lookout so that we may purchase it when it becomes available. The other pre-quarantine practices that we made will continue. This includes receiving Communion in the hand only, no holding of the hands during the Our Father and limiting the sign of peace to a wave. We know that this is a difficult time for all of us, but we are excited to know that we will soon be together once again to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Though difficult, we can do this together. To paraphrase St. Paul, “we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” We look forward to seeing you soon, until then, May God continue to bless you and keep you in the palm of His hand.

Fr. Nestor Rodriguez