

**Saint Francis and Saint Ambrose Roman Catholic Parishes**

**P.O. Box 216**

**Saint Paul, Kansas 66771**

May 5, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters of Saint Ambrose and Saint Francis Parishes,

We have all been tried in the last few months due to the pandemic virus. As restrictions ease and we try to come back to some sense of normalcy concerning Holy Mass, I have the following to offer to you. My pastoral directives are based on the sound and prudent directives just announced by Bishop Kemme. Our bishop loves us as Jesus loves us.

The public celebration of weekday Holy Mass for our parishes will resume Monday May 11. The weekday schedule for Mass and Adoration at both parishes is as it was before the recent restrictions, with the exception that there will be no Saturday morning Mass. Vigil Masses for Sunday will be offered Saturday afternoon and evening, beginning May 16 at 5:00p.m. and 7:00p.m., both at Saint Francis Church. On Sunday, May 17, Holy Mass will be offered at 9:00a.m. 11:00a.m. and 1:00p.m., also at Saint Francis Church. This is the temporary "Sunday schedule for Masses" until further notice, and it is subject to change. These Sunday Masses, even with the continued suspension of the Sunday Obligation by our bishop, are scheduled to give you options in light of the fact that our total seating at Saint Francis Church will be drastically limited at each Mass. The seating is based upon six foot distancing and building occupancy %, directed by the bishop and health officials.

I very much wish I could offer Sunday Mass at Saint Ambrose Church now, but the simple math that Saint Francis church seats more people is clear. The social distancing guidelines greatly restrict the number of people allowed to attend. I must choose the building that allows for more of you, if you choose to come, for Sunday Mass. In the future I look forward to celebrating Holy Mass again every Sunday at Saint Ambrose!

Please know if you are not allowed to enter the church building at Saint Francis, we are strictly limited to an occupancy of 33% of the total capacity of the building per gathering. Do not be offended. Remember, **there continues to be no obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sunday**. If you are turned away due to pandemic building capacity, based on the six foot social distancing rule, but yet you have the need to pray, please go home and read Sacred Scripture, pray the Rosary and watch Holy Mass on EWTN.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. In all the details of these guidelines, Christ Jesus must not be left out. It is because of His divine love and mercy that we make all this fuss; and we pray to God for an end to this pandemic. Mother Mary, pray for us!

In Christ Jesus our Eucharistic Lord and Savior, with love, hope and faith, I remain,



Father Sam Pinkerton

Enclosure from the Most Reverend Carl Kemme, Bishop of Wichita