

Saint Boniface Catholic Church

4025 Main Street
P.O. Box 68
St. Bonifacius, Minnesota 55375
(952) 446-1054



July 31, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we continue to navigate these days, I wanted to reach out to update you to a few things at our parish. I want to thank you for your patient endurance as we continue to navigate these days. It is certainly easy to give in to discouragement, frustration, anxiety, and anger for any number of reasons. However, our call today remains the same as always; to seek to live in the Will and Love of God. I encourage you to spend time in quiet prayer each day, as our life in prayer will be the only way to truly maintain interior peace.

While we continue to seek that time in prayer, we also have some parish logistics to communicate. The main purpose of signing up for Mass is to be able to ensure that we stay within the guidelines for capacity and social distancing. Daily Masses have not been filling up to capacity, and so we are no longer asking parishioners to sign up to attend those Masses at this time. We have removed these Masses from our SignUp. **There will be no daily Masses August 11-14.**

As you have likely heard from Governor Walz, masks are required in all public indoor spaces including churches. The Archbishop provided a response to the parishes on this directive: Though decisions regarding safety protocols within Catholic churches are ultimately within the authority of the diocesan bishop, Catholic tradition teaches that the Church should collaborate with public officials in the service of public health and the common good unless directives are unreasonable, impractical, or discriminatory. The Archdiocese does not regard the Governor's Executive Order to wear face coverings to be any of these and is therefore asking parishes to comply with his order.

There are exemptions to this requirement, though, including:

- Individuals with a medical condition or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering
- Children who are five years old and under, and
- Those assisting at Mass in certain ministries – priests, cantors, musicians, and lectors.

The mask may also be removed for the reverent reception of Holy Communion.

We ask for your cooperation with this new order as we rightfully follow the guidance of our Archbishop – and we also ask for charity and to not judge those whose particular conditions might exempt them from this requirement.

We will begin distributing Communion during the “normal” time at Mass. I ask that everyone remain in their pew, and it will probably be easiest if you remain kneeling. I will walk in between the pews and distribute Communion. If you do not wish to receive, you may do the customary crossing of your arms over your chest and I will give you a blessing. This may take a little longer than what a “normal” Communion would take, but is a wonderful opportunity for a

little extra prayer for the world, for our community and ourselves, and in gratitude for receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.

I know many of you are anxiously awaiting decisions regarding returning to school and also what we will be doing for Faith Formation. We will be offering Faith Formation this year, but we are still working through the details, and watching the local developments for schools and other parishes as we work out our plan. Details will be forthcoming.

As we continue to think of ways to deepen our faith, I wanted to mention some opportunities that are out there. We have the Formed.org subscription if you are looking for online content. Otherwise, there is EWTN, Relevant Radio (1330 AM), and many other places to continue to receive new content. Additionally, this could be a great time to pick up some spiritual reading. We have a library at the parish as you walk in where you may borrow a book. Many of us, though we are able to spend time in community at Mass, are feeling distant from others. Please continue to reach out to those you think would benefit from some meaningful connection over the phone.

Support our parish. While we continue to not know what the future holds economically, the parish continues to rely on your generosity to maintain our operations. For those of you who are able, please continue to help support our parish. There are a few ways this can be done:

- Visit our current website <http://stboniface-stmary.org/>
 - o Click on “Donate”
- Mail your check to the parish (4025 Main St, PO Box 68, St Bonifacius, MN 55375)
- Or join us for Mass and there is a place for your offering as you leave.

I continue to remain committed to serving you as your (newly installed) pastor in whatever challenges the future will bring us. Thank you for your prayers and know I continue to pray for you each day. Please pray for me as I try to lead us as we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Peter Hughes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Fr. Peter Hughes".

Fr. Peter Hughes