

September 15, 2020

Dear friends,

Many people ask me, “*When we are going to open our Churches for indoor Masses again?*” I wish I could tell you. It seems that we are inching closer to that day. I do thank you for your patience.

For all those who are joining us for the outdoor Masses (see schedule below), along with social distancing, sanitizing your hands and wearing a mask, please take other precautions, such as an umbrella, sunscreen, water, etc. to protect from the heat and smoke from the fires. Also please pray for the abatement of the fires and the protection of all our firefighters, people’s lives and property.

The Mass schedule will be the same as the last six weeks.

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Schedule for Outdoor Weekend Masses

Saturday: 6:00 pm in English; 7:30 pm in Spanish. Following the 7:30 p.m. Spanish Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration for all who wish to attend.

Sunday: English Masses: 6, 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m. live stream Mass in church (with the option to drive to the Church and receive Holy Communion after this Mass); **1:00 p.m. Spanish live stream Mass in Church and 7:00 p.m. in Spanish.** Following the 7:00 p.m. Sunday Spanish Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration.

For all Outdoor Weekend Masses, people can make ONE OF TWO choices:

- 1) They can sit in their cars in the south parking lot and watch the Mass OR
- 2) They can bring their beach chairs (and umbrellas, if necessary) and sit in designated areas on the north parking lot.

- a. If you join us for Mass in the north parking lot, please sanitize your hands as you enter through the gate into the parking lot.
- b. Be sure to wear a mask (masks will be provided, if you don't have one).
- c. Maintain social distancing of 6' from other people.
- d. At Holy Communion time, the parishioners seated in north parking lot can come in lines to receive Holy Communion—always keeping 6 feet between you and the person in front of you.
- e. People seated in cars can join the communion lines or, after Mass, drive through and receive Holy Communion.

The public outdoor Masses will be short. There will be no music, hymn books, or missalettes. The homily will be brief. If your health is in any way compromised, especially our senior citizens, it might be best for you to view the live stream Masses at home.

Daily Masses: Monday to Friday

- **8:30 am Mass in Church**—with only priest, lector and Altar Servers—that will be live streamed to patio on west side of Church where people will gather in the shade, self-distancing and wearing masks, or parishioners can view the Mass at home on the parish website.
- **5:30 pm Mass on east side of the Church** where people will gather in the shade—self-distancing and wearing masks.
 - We encourage everyone to sanitize their hands as they enter the north parking lot, self-distance and wear a mask.

Daily Confessions

Monday and Wednesday: outside on west side of the Church: 9-10 am
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: outside on east side of the Church: 4-5 pm

Saturday Confessions: in front of our parish hall, under the porch covering: 3-5 pm.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Evangelization: There will be two online faith formation events this fall that the entire parish should know about.

The first is an online **Alpha program** that will begin **Thursday, September 24th from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pacific time.** At this time, most of the parish knows about the Alpha program. It is an 11 week course that dives deeply into the central proclamation of the Christian faith in an open and welcoming environment. It is the perfect place for parishioners to invite family members and friends to explore the deep questions in life: What are we created for? What gives us happiness?...But most of all, Alpha gives you a chance to encounter Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The great thing about an online **Alpha** is it allows you to invite those you know who would never come to St. Rose for an event due to caution of distance. Attendees online know they have a certain distance that could help them try something they would never do in person. They don't even need to live in Simi. They can live in Alaska, the backwoods of Maine or deep in the bayou and still get online to share in this faith experience. I want to encourage those of you who have not attended an Alpha yourself to attend, and to ask anyone you know who is looking for more out of life, and the answers to many of life's big questions, to consider attending for a session or two and see if it is for them.

Attendees can begin up to the third week of the series on October 8th.

The second session is training on the **Great Story of Jesus.** Bishop Barron tells the story of attending a party and being “*cornered*” by a very enthusiastic 7 to 8 year old boy who, over the course of an hour,

recited the whole Star Wars saga, encompassing over 10 movies, with dozens of characters—all the events, battles, betrayals, triumphs and sorrows. He could only marvel at the boy's command of the material. He wondered out loud if the Church can do the same with the story of Jesus. We all know components and we know the events, but Bishop Barron asked “*Can we get better at telling the story of Jesus?*”

The Siena Institute has answered his challenge and created a program to help us 'tell the GREAT STORY OF JESUS' in a way that evokes a response in those whom we are in natural conversation. Pope Benedict said "being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." The series will have an introduction session this Monday, September 14th and get rolling with the first session, September 21st. **Look for the registration links soon on the website and bulletin, or email name and address to alpha@strosesv.com.**

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Grade School is starting: We know that there are many families who are frustrated because their children cannot attend in-school instructions and because they are worried about the radical secular agenda being pushed by the public school system (i.e. promoting the theory of systemic racism, defunding police, radical sexual re-education and gender theory, etc.). Our wonderful school is not affected by this radical agenda. Also our school is applying for a waiver from Ventura County and we hope to re-open in mid-September, following all the protocols for a safe re-opening. We still have space for more students. If you are interested, please call the school at **805-526-5304** or go on the **St. Rose of Lima School website: srls.org**

Religious Education: For those children are not attending a Catholic School, parents should enroll their children in our wonderful Religious Education Program to assist the parents in giving their children a great Catholic education/formation. This year we have restored Grades 3-5 Religious Education. To register, your child(ren), please go to the RE website dre@strosesv.com or contact **Pauline Simpson at 805-526-5513.**

Confirmation: For our high school young people who have not received their Confirmation, we are starting on-line registration for Confirmation preparation. To register, please go to RE website dre@strosesv.com or contact Pauline Simpson at 805-526-5513.

St. Rose of Lima Christian Service: Our Christian Service is in real need of canned goods and other basic supplies (diapers, baby wipes, etc). If you have fruit trees in your yard with extra fruit, please bring the fruit to the Christian Service garage.

Votive Candles: Votive Candles are available for purchase at the rectory or in the Mother Cabrini Gift Shop in the Church vestibule. Since Governor's Newsom's restrictions are still in effect, once a candle is purchased, a priest can bless the candle(s) and a staff member will take the candle(s) to the Church, light the candle(s) and place them in the candles holders in front of the Blessed Mother or Sacred Heart Shrines. The sale of our votive candles helps fund the Msgr. Sylvester Ryan Scholarship Fund.

For any Baptism, Marriage, or Funeral, please contact the rectory (805-526-1732) to make arrangements.

Again, please keep hydrated, cool and safe during these hot days. Also know that we are praying for you, especially those who can't join us physically because of age or compromised health issues. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Joseph Shea