

March 8, 2021

Dear Parish Family,

At this point in time, we find ourselves trying to plan ahead for Holy Week and Easter. With some people finishing their second vaccines, it is even more challenging to try to be sure we keep our environment safe by keeping a good handle on the size of our congregations at Mass and parish events. Although we expect lower attendance than normal, we really have no way to know for sure.

For Christmas we had to implement ticketing for our Masses. With the uncertain number of attendees during Holy Week and Easter, we feel we must take precautions again to be sure we do not have more people than we can accommodate safely. We hope you understand that ticketing is not intended to restrict access or keep anyone from church, but rather to create the safest environment possible.

For Holy Week and Easter, we will implement ticketing for the following services/events:

- Holy Thursday Soup Supper, April 1, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
- Holy Thursday Mass, April 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.
- Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Good Friday, April 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

At the current time, we do not know exactly what these services will look like or if any parts of the services will need to be omitted due to Coronavirus restrictions. For example, we usually commission Eucharistic Ministers on Holy Thursday. Because many Eucharistic ministers have not yet returned to in-person attendance, this may be omitted or done virtually. Again, the lack of our full adult choir will have a big effect on our liturgies.

Reservations will be required for all the Holy Week/Easter Services listed above. This is necessary to ensure that we do not exceed the number of people we can accommodate in church or the cafeteria while maintaining social distancing and remaining as safe as possible. Please note that if you plan to attend the soup supper in addition to Mass on Holy Thursday, you will need to reserve for them separately.

Parishioners are receiving this information about reserving seats for Mass prior to it being released to the general public. If you plan to attend any of these services, you will want to act as soon as possible since we will also publish this information soon to non-parishioners. If members of your extended family will be attending Little Flower, please feel welcome to make reservations for them as well.

We will utilize the on-line program **Eventbrite** to reserve tickets. We will not be reserving specific seats, but ticketing will be used to limit overall capacity. Please use the following link to be directed to a page on our website. From there, you can reserve tickets for the service/events you plan to attend.

<http://www.littleflowerparish.org/prayer-and-liturgy/holy-week-and-easter-reservations/>

If we have your email address on file, you will also receive this link in an email so you can go directly to the site or copy and paste the link to your browser. The software will direct you through the process, and you will receive an email after making your reservations. The email will include your tickets that can be printed. You will also have an option to load the **Eventbrite** app to your mobile device to show your tickets. This is not required as you can use the printed tickets. However, tickets will be required for entry.

If you do not have a computer or do not feel able to reserve your tickets on-line, perhaps you can ask a family member to help you. If you have no way to make your reservation on-line, please call Jeannie at the parish office at 317-357-8352, and she will assist you.

If we exceed the number of tickets available for one of the Easter Sunday Masses, we are hopeful that everyone who would like to attend will be flexible, choosing an alternate time, or even choosing the Easter Vigil if their preferred time is not available.

If you wish, you can be placed on a waitlist for that Mass time and will be notified if additional space becomes available. If you would like to also make a reservation for another time, please feel free to do so. If tickets become available for your preferred Mass, we can always cancel your other reservation.

Tickets will only be available until 24 hours before a given Mass is scheduled to start.

Obviously this is a big change and lot of information to take in. Just a few more points:

1. Please do not reserve tickets unless you are reasonably sure you will use them. If you are reserving for family members, please be sure they are planning to come before making your reservation. We know that last minute things will happen, but please be as sure as you can be so that your reservation does not prevent someone else from attending. At Christmas, we had a significant number of people who did not use their tickets, causing others to miss their opportunity to reserve those places.
2. If your plans change after you register, you should cancel your reservation. Please call Jeannie in the parish office for help in canceling your reservation.
3. We will need to schedule Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, and Lectors for these Masses. We will do that by reviewing the list of ministers who have made reservations. So please, if you are a member of one of these ministries, make your reservations as everyone else, and you may be contacted to serve.

Finally, as in years past, our eighth grade students will offer the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We will not require tickets for this, but we will ask that parishioners and parents who want to attend choose the 1:00 p.m. service if at all possible. This will allow us to have as many students attend in person for the morning service.

Thank you for your support of Little Flower during the difficult times of the past year. Most of all, thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to make our Holy Week and Easter liturgies as safe as possible. As a parishioner, please take this opportunity to reserve your spot(s) early! Questions can be directed to Tom via e-mail at tcostello@littleflowerparish.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bob". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Robert J. Gilday
Pastor