



ST. PETER'S

CATHEDRAL BASILICA

June 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica Parish,

For over 100 days we have endured a threat to our health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic while we remained isolated, anxious and uncertain. Our gathering together for worship has been restricted and we have been unable to engage in the sacramental life of the Church.

I am happy to let you know the plan for the gradual reopening of our cathedral building will begin the first weekend in July. On Saturday, July 4th we will be able to gather for Mass at 5:00 p.m. and, on Sunday, July 5th Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. and noon. We will follow the guidelines implemented by the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Diocese of London. They will remain in place as long as necessary. As a result, one hundred and sixteen (116) seating places will be available at each Mass. This number will come as a surprise to many but the safety and health of all who join us is paramount.

Before coming to Mass please prepare before leaving home. Take your temperature and assess yourself for the common symptoms. Upon arrival you will be asked to observe the requisite physical distance both inside and outside the church. You will be greeted by volunteers who will ask you to read the official notice and declare that you do not have any symptoms. We will record your name and phone number in case contact tracing becomes a necessity. This information will be kept for one month. A volunteer will escort you to a seat so we can provide for an orderly and safe entrance and exit. Of course, you probably will not be able to access your regular seat. Where possible, we will attempt to seat together those living in the same household. As we care for each other, it is recommended a face mask be worn at all times. Other changes to our celebration will be explained when we gather. There is also helpful information and a video to be found on our parish website. Entrance will be on a first come, first enter basis. There is the risk of people unable to gain entrance because our numbers have been reached. Please arrive up to thirty (30) minutes prior to Mass. Once Mass begins we will not be allowed to let anyone enter the church.

533 Clarence Street, London, Ontario N6A 3N1

Tel: 519 432 3475 • Fax: 519 432 5358 • Email: basilica@dol.ca • Web: www.cathedral.dol.ca



ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

Please do not be afraid to exercise caution. Those with underlying medical conditions and seniors may consider not attending. They can be assured by Bishop Fabbro's announcement that the dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass will remain in effect until December. We will use this schedule until after Labour Day weekend when the situation will be assessed. Of course, regular updates are always available on our parish website and through our bulletin published each Friday. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive the weekly bulletin or any announcements that are issued to inform you of current or changing situations, please email your request to basilica@dol.ca or call the parish office general mailbox at 519-432-3475, ext. 221. I highly recommend this.

We continue to need your help. Volunteers are required to assist with safety and check-in procedures prior to each Mass and sanitization of the space after Mass. If you can help, please contact Cathryn Hall at chall@dol.ca or 519-432-3475, ext. 225.

I believe we can expect this situation to last for weeks to come. We are taking every precaution so that public gatherings do not create a second wave of contagion and render useless the gains we have made through the hard work and sacrifices made so others can be safe.

All the members of the pastoral team and administrative staff join me in thanking you for your continued understanding, support and prayers.

Sincerely yours,

(Rev.) James E. Mockler
Rector

533 Clarence Street, London, Ontario N6A 3N1

Tel: 519 432 3475 • Fax: 519 432 5358 • Email: basilica@dol.ca • Web: www.cathedral.dol.ca