

Outdoor Parking Lot Mass On Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. Has Resumed

We have resumed temporarily the celebration of our Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass outdoors in the parish's North Parking Lot beginning last Saturday, September 11. This Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass in the Parking Lot will continue for roughly two months as we monitor the Covid/Delta variant, other potential variants, and the relevant public health and safety factors. Bishop O'Connell has given permission for this change to an outdoor Mass. The other Masses on our weekend schedule and weekday schedule are not affected by this change on Saturday at 4:00. The Saturday 4:00 Mass will not be celebrated indoors during this roughly two-month time period although we will welcome Mass-goers who desire to be indoors in the church on Saturday at 4:00 to do so, and we have made arrangements for the outdoor Mass to be simultaneously live-streamed to the "big screen" TV monitor that will be in the Upper Church for this Mass. Those viewing the live-stream of the 4:00 Mass indoors in the Upper Church may receive Holy Communion indoors in the Upper Church at the conclusion of this outdoor Mass. The upcoming Saturday 4:00 Parking Lot Masses will be celebrated in the same manner (including the dignity of the Mass and the utmost respect for the Blessed Sacrament) as they were during the May 2020 to July 2021 time period: in the North Lot, using the stage constructed and donated by a parishioner, Holy Communion distributed at the conclusion of the Mass to Mass-goers who will remain in their parked cars throughout the Mass, etc. In the event of inclement weather we will follow the same procedure that was utilized during May 2020 to July 2021.

This decision to resume (and request permission for) the Parking Lot Mass was reached in light of:

- The rising number of Covid/Delta cases as reported in the media.
- Concerns re who is vaccinated and who is not vaccinated.
- Concerns re who is masked and who is not masked.
- And other factors including reducing the anxiety and stress that many are experiencing and voicing as to attendance at the indoor Masses and in general regarding significant numbers of persons attending indoor gatherings of any kind.

Please pray for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020-2021, for all those who are ill with the virus and its variants, and for all their caregivers. St. Michael, pray for us.