

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I hope this last week has treated you well. For my part, I got my first haircut in two months, and I don't think I've ever been so excited for a simple, boring haircut. This virus has apparently taught me to appreciate the little things. However, bigger things are coming, so here's what's going on:

BEGINNING PUBLIC MASSES

- That's right, it's time to plan for public masses with small groups of people! As of now, the plan is to begin on May 16th with groups of ten or fewer.
- There is NO OBLIGATION to attend Sunday Mass at this time.
- Sunday Mass will broadcast on the Corpus Christi Facebook page, at least on May 10th, [facebook.com/corpuschisticatholicchurchwy](https://www.facebook.com/corpuschisticatholicchurchwy), live at 7 am, and then available as a recording afterwards.
- Sunday Mass will continue to be broadcast on AM 1240 KASL at 7 am.
- Again, even once Masses resume, there will be NO OBLIGATION for Catholics to attend Mass on Sunday. If you are part of a vulnerable demographic, have been sick recently, or just aren't comfortable gathering in groups yet, please stay home.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I need volunteers to help me think through and execute the logistics around resuming public Masses. We need to consider how we will "sign up" for Mass, space people out in our churches, clean and sanitize the churches afterwards, etc. Please let me know if you'd be willing to help me out: I need volunteers from all three parishes for this "Comeback Crew," and I need you immediately so we can be ready for next weekend. I'd especially like to recruit pastoral council members, ushers, and sacristans, but really, anybody willing to lend a hand would be appreciated.

CONFESSION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

- All Anointings of the Sick will be by appointment, as is normal.
- Confessions in Newcastle will be by appointment (call me!), and we'll use the screened side of our normal confessional.
- Confessions in Sundance and Upton will take place at the normal Sunday Mass times on May 10th (10:30 am at St. Paul's and 5 pm at St. Anthony's) in the pews of the main body of the church, with 6-8 feet between you and me. Face-to-face will be the only option.
- REMINDER: Since Mass has been unavailable for the last month and a half, you have not sinned by missing Sunday Mass during that time. If you're like me and my family, being cooped up with your family has probably led to other sins, and for that, God's mercy will be available.

YOUTH BACKPACKING TRIP

-As of now, our youth backpacking trip on June 29-July 3rd is still on, and there's still room to sign up. The trip will depend on whether the Forest Service and other land management agencies are allowing permitted groups to use the National Forests yet; right now they are not, and also the forests we'll use are still buried in snow. COR (Catholic Outdoor Renewal) is working with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) and other outdoor industry leaders to create new policies and procedures to be safe and healthy in the backcountry.

FAITH FORMATION

- Our bible study via Zoom continues to go well. You're always welcome even if you can't make all the classes. Join the Remote Bible Study group on Flocknote to receive updates and information.
- I will continue to post daily reflections to newcastlecorpuschristi.org/homilies.

-A lot of Catholic conferences are moving online in order to operate right now. One conference you may want to consider is about the Theology of the Body, and it's happening this weekend. It's free, and you can click [HERE](#) for more information.

GIVING

-Thank you for your continued generosity to our parishes.

-For Corpus Christi, please mail your offering to the church at 19 W. Winthrop St.

-For St. Anthony's please mail your offering to PO Box 177.

-For St. Paul's, please mail checks to PO Box 28, or take cash to Sundance State Bank and have the tellers put it into the regular checking account or building fund checking account. Ask the teller to put your name on the receipt so that we can record it on the donation sheet.

MY THOUGHTS

I'm excited to celebrate the Mass with you again soon, although the limited number of people will be different than what I envisioned would happen back in the middle of March when we suspended the public celebration of the Mass. But then, none of this has played out like anyone expected.

Ever since I've arrived in northeast Wyoming last summer, I've been grateful for your patience as your pastor figures out how to be a pastor for the first time. Now more than ever, I ask for your patience as we navigate these uncharted waters. We may make decisions you disagree with. We will definitely make mistakes. So, thank you for your patience.

We have all made immense sacrifices over the last several weeks for the sake of others, let's not have those efforts be in vain by rushing this process or looking for ways around the regulations. Once I can assemble a "Comeback Crew" of volunteers, I'll offer more information about what it'll look like when we come back to Mass. Know of my prayers for you, and please pray for me as I discern how best to move our parishes into the next phase of this recovery.

And a happy and blessed Mother's Day to all of our mothers. You've loved us, cared for us, disciplined us, forgiven us, and done it all without nearly the thanks you deserve. So, thank you. I wouldn't be who I am without the love of my own mom and all the maternal figures in my life. I ask Mother Mary's intercession for you, that you may be richly blessed for your labors.

In Christ,
Fr. Brian