

St. Edith Worship Commission
ZOOM meeting May 18, 2020

Fr. Jim McNulty opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:05 p.m. Also “present” were Deacon Don Esler, Joe Rashid, Cindy Coleman, Jane DeRoo, Mike Magoulick, Al Rivard, Heather Shina, Lisa Smerdon, and Linda Bodnar.

Fr. Jim requested that we go over the guidelines and make comments.

“General”

Joe Rashid noted that there would be no holy water. He inquired if the video Mass each week would be a livestream or a separate liturgy. Fr. Jim responded that we cannot livestream an outdoor Mass, and he wants to hold as many Masses outside as possible. The three regular Mass times will remain.

Equipment for livestreaming is being obtained.

Jane DeRoo asked about “Cleaning and sanitizing...before or after Masses.” Joe asked if the maintenance staff would handle that; Fr. Said it would be done before the 5 p.m. Mass, and that Bob and Justin would most likely do it. The upholstery cannot be sanitized, but outside Masses would not require much at all.

Fr. Jim wants to distance people as much as possible.

Joe asked if there would be enough pyxes. With some being ordered there should be enough to meet any demand.

Linda Bodnar asked if the “chapel is now (not “not”) being used as a storage room.” Fr. Jim confirmed that it is being used for storage.

The altar and ambo from the chapel will be used for the outside Masses.

Lisa Smerdon asked if there would be no altar servers, not even one to carry the cross. Fr. Jim replied that there would be no procession, so no servers are needed.

Joe asked if Heather would be playing and singing, noting that people will try to sing if they know the song.

[Tom Rist joined the group at 7:15.]

Discussion followed concerning songs. Fr. Jim noted that while using unfamiliar music could discourage singing, it goes against his nature and what we have been trying to do. Heather Shina suggested using spoken Propers, rather than sung ones, and discussion suggested the “Gloria” remain sung, as a spoken “Gloria” is not the same.

Deacon Don Esler asked who would be responsible for sanitizing pyx when they are returned to the parish. Joe felt people would probably keep them for a while. We will have to wait and see how things go, ultimately making someone responsible for the sanitizing. Fr. Jim asked if they were expensive. Joe said they were not but have previously come from China. Joe will keep an eye on them.

Heather suggested using familiar music for livestreaming, and less familiar music for regular Masses. Discussion followed.

“Attendance” – Discussion of this section will be reserved until the end of this meeting.

“Inside Masses”

Mike Magoulick asked how many collection baskets/boxes there would be and where would they be located. Fr. Jim said there would be two. Mike was concerned with minimizing contact with the contributions. Discussion followed.

“Outside Masses”

Jane asked where the outside Masses would be held, where parking would be, and what sound equipment would be used. Fr. Jim responded that the parking lot, in front of the gym, would be used, with the altar near the gym wall. Parking would be on the other side of the lot and in back. With limited attendance there should be adequate parking. The sound system used for the Parish Picnic will be used for the outside Masses.

Lisa asked if we would still be limited to 200 people. Fr. Jim answered that we would, because in case of rain, we would have to move inside. He also stated that initially he wants to start with a lower number of attendees.

Fr. Jim asked if weekday morning Masses should be outside, since outside is safer. It was noted that most attendees at the weekday Masses are older. Fr. Jim thought we might not have weekday Masses the first week – to wait and hold another meeting to review our observations. Cindy Coleman suggested having just one weekday Mass to start.

Deacon Don asked how the paving is on that side of the parking lot – concerned about safety. Fr. Jim said it is okay.

Fr. Jim noted that while there are 14 funerals pending, he has spoken with all of the families and none of them want to have services during the stay at home orders.

Fr. Jim is encouraging the vulnerable to not come to church.

Mike stated that he only has 9 ushers now, which would be only three per Mass. Fr. Jim said he will ask the Parish Staff to help with seating, some of the ushers' work.

Fr. Jim said he would rather have 50 people at each of three Masses than 150 at one Mass. The regular three weekend Masses will remain: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11:00 on Sunday.

Lisa said she could help usher if needed. Mike also said he could get help from the congregation.

Jane wondered how dismissal from the back would work. Joe hoped that Father would mention the procedures.

Deacon Don raised the issue of handicapped people at the end of pews. Fr. Jim felt that some may choose to not receive the Eucharist because of social distancing concerns. Heather asked how ushering would work from a distance of 6 feet.

“Sacristan”

Joe asked about the Lectionary and Prayers of the Faithful. They will be kept on the ambo, since only the priest and deacon will use the sacristy.

The sacristan will put out hosts based on attendance. Fr. Jim said that they are plenty already in the tabernacle.

Jane asked about tables for the EME stations. Fr. Jim asked that Art & Environment prepare them, as well as a table for bulletins and hand sanitizer. He is trying to get free-standing hand sanitizers.

Discussion followed: Who will set up the tables? Where will the bulletins be outside? Purificators can be used in lieu of corporals. How often will laundry need to be done?

“Deacon/Priest”

No discussion

“EME”

Al Rivard noted that if contact is made between an EME and communicant, there will be a slight delay in distribution of Communion.

The issue of shields was discussed. Deacon Don noted that 50 shields have been ordered; each EME will have their own and be responsible for bringing it to Mass and sanitizing it.

Everyone will bring their own mask. 50 paper masks have been ordered for use if necessary. Cindy suggested that a reminder to wear a mask be included on the website, as well as when calls are made to the Office to reserve a place at Mass. She further suggested that Fr. Jim not distribute Holy Communion. Fr. Jim thought having the EME's sign up on the website would be a good idea. Someone will need to check that people have indeed signed up. Linda Bodnar noted that that would help avoid having too many EME's at a Mass. Since there will be only 3 EMEs per Mass, sign-in at Mass will be unnecessary. Fr. Jim said that in his video he will ask for volunteers, noting that they will have to sign up each week. Al will then be able to use that list of volunteers to call EME's if necessary. Lisa expressed concern for summer temperatures outside.

"Lectors"

Linda will prepare a schedule, assigning only one lector for each Mass. Sign-in at Mass will be unnecessary. Discussion followed: seating near ambo for lector; review Prayers of the Faithful before Mass at ambo, not in sacristy. The lector's family will still need to make a reservation.

"Distribution of Communion"

Joe asked if anyone would need to take Communion to handicapped in the back of church. Fr. Jim said we would have to wait and see. Mike noted that the ushers would be able to watch for that. Also, Joe asked how to handle those who only want a blessing. A "no touch" "Bless you" will have to suffice.

"Attendance"

Deacon Don, knowing that Lisa works with Sign-up Genius, asked her if it is simple. She replied, "Yes," noting that those with children in school are probably already familiar with it. He asked how it is accessed. Lisa responded that one needs an account on Sign-up Genius, the program sends a link; older people might have more trouble; the administrator can add people. Fr. Jim said that MaryAnn will be able to put a sign-up on our website. It will be for one week at a time. Deacon Don said the Office would populate the website for calls made to the Office. Fr. Jim noted that this system would not generate tickets and hopes that people will cooperate. Discussion followed: How many attendees to start? 110-125? Fr. Jim was leaning toward 50. Reservations would open on Wednesdays. Jane reminded that each individual in a family needs to be counted. Would ministers (lector, EME's, Sacristan, ushers) be able to sign in early, perhaps on Monday? Does Mike want Fr. Jim to ask for usher volunteers? Inside Masses will need three ushers to direct communion; Mike felt he could get help from the congregation. "Stay in the pew until the usher directs you to get up."

Deacon Don inquired about the 15-minute Adoration after Mass. Fr. Jim said we will put that aside for now, wait and see.

Lisa suggested that when Fr. Jim presents a generalized announcement on how all this will work that he be as positive as possible, since there are so many things we cannot do. Fr. Jim noted that so much is contrary to what we have been trying to do as a parish.

Deacon Don agreed that the Welcoming Committee should plan on no activities for now. Fr. Jim said he hated to say so, but that is the case.

Heather suggested reminders to not chat in the Gathering Space.

Fr. Jim expressed hope that people would cooperate with the sign-up. Mike said the ushers would help count.

Fr. Jim wants the first week to start really low, and count to check that the number present matches the number signed up. 50 people the first week should be a good starting point.

Fr. Jim was complimented for the good work he has done in preparing the guidelines.
Fr. Jim stated that there would be a Staff Meeting on Wednesday.

At Linda's request, Fr. Jim addressed the matter of funerals. There are currently 14 pending. Fr. Jim has talked to all of the families. Some want to wait 6 months. He has suggested a small funeral with few people soon, then something bigger later, perhaps on the anniversary of the death. People at risk do not want a bunch of people present. Funerals now will be small, probably without Communion.

Deacon Don reported that there will be no group Baptisms for the time being. Individual ones will continue to be performed.

Mike asked when First Communion would be held. Fr. Jim said that there would probably not be a big group First Communion for at least a year. There may be individual children receiving at individual Masses.

Jane shared that many funerals are now being live-streamed. For her late father 200 people watched; that procedure can bring comfort to those who cannot be there. Fr. Jim said that in about three weeks we should have live-streaming available.

Fr. Jim said we may want to have one person help at small funerals to light the incense. The sacristans could lector if the families do not. Joe will see who is willing to participate.

Fr. Jim does not want anyone to be uncomfortable coming to things. Stay home if you want to.

Joe said we will have another meeting when necessary.

With no further business, the meeting closed with the "Hail Mary" at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bodnar