GUIDELINES FOR OPENING ST. FRANCIS XAVIER DURING THE YELLOW STAGE

We at St. Francis Xavier Parish are very happy to have Adams County move to the yellow stage. With this opening, we have the added responsibility to keep all of our parishioners safe. Remember that any gathering will increase the risk of becoming ill. We have made preparations to ensure that we keep all attending parishioners safe while keeping our facilities open for worship. We ask that, in addition to the guidelines, you be attentive to the following seven principles:

1. **You will have 8 different options during the week to receive Holy Communion, and Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed.**
   a. Bishop Gainer has dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass. Sunday Mass is not your only option. *During this time of pandemic, receiving communion on a weekday is just as good as receiving communion on Sunday.*
   b. If you are worried about large crowd gatherings, please stay home and participate in our Sunday Masses online.
      
      We especially encourage anyone belonging to the high-risk group (our older parishioners, anyone with chronic illnesses - especially if they are respiratory in nature, anyone who is at increased risk of getting ill) to stay home during this time.
   c. If you are uncomfortable following our parish guidelines for Masses during this pandemic, please also stay home.

2. **The Liturgical experience will look different:**
   a. Reduced singing and fewer musicians during Mass
   b. No extraordinary ministers, altar servers, etc.
   c. Distribution of Holy Communion will take additional time to ensure the safety of all.

3. **Your cooperation is essential. Yellow not only means ‘caution’, but stop if necessary.**
   Please note that should we find ourselves unable to prevail in the logistical adherences, we may be forced to return to the red stage and end our opening.

4. **Remember that this is still the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.**
   We are using less-than ideal means during these less-than-ideal circumstances in order to safely celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Such challenging circumstances should never let us lose sight that we are participating in ‘these sacred mysteries.’ Not only for safety reasons, but out of simple reverence, please refrain from socializing before, during, and after Masses.

5. **The Mass times, guidelines, and all other updated information, will be on the main page of the parish website (stfxcc.org).**

6. **Be Flexible and ‘Role with the Punches’:**
   We are ‘flying the plane while building it during this time.’ Some changes may arise out of recognized imperfections or new information. In any event, we kindly ask for your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we navigate through these unusual and trying times. *Updates will be shown on this document in red font.*

7. **No mask, no admittance (see guidelines below for more details)**
   Please stay safe and healthy. Please also continue to pray for our pastor, our dedicated volunteers, and our staff who continue to serve our parish family.

God bless you all,

Dr. Edward Szoke, MD
Health Safety Officer

Fr. Andrew St. Hilaire
Parochial Vicar