

## Ask Monsignor Some Questions

### ***When do you think we can begin celebrating (public) Masses again?***

I really do not know. Keep in mind that we pastors and principals do not receive advance information about procedures or restrictions. We found out that Indiana schools were closed for the remainder of the academic year when the governor announced it at his press conference.

Around May 1, the authorities are not going to throw a switch and we will all get back to “normal.” When our country gradually begins to reopen, we know it will not be simply “back to business as usual.” It can’t be. Nor should it be, I guess. So when things begin to resume it won’t be “back to church as usual.” I foresee changes.

For one thing, some people will still be uncomfortable in large groups. Attendance will not likely be the same as it was for a long time. This includes people who are liturgical ministers: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers, Choir Members, Ministers of Hospitality (ushers), and so forth. How shall we cope with missing some?

Don’t forget that two out of three of your Saint Luke priests are over 60-years young and in that “vulnerable population.” Long story short: I don’t think we will resume our regular Mass schedule in the near future.

Instead I have chosen to do daily recordings, “Monsignor’s Musings.” This letter and the podcasts are my way of staying in touch with you. You can also access them on our Website: [www.stluke.org](http://www.stluke.org). Click on the button marked Podcasts. There are also instructions on how to subscribe and have them sent directly to you.

***Why can't we have Mass in the parking lot if people remain in their cars?  
Some places have done this.***

I know. But note that in those places people just watch the Mass; they don't receive Holy Communion. Imagine what our parking lot would look like. It would be about the same as the school car pool line every day at dismissal. Most people would not be able to see, let alone hear.

Besides that, the governor has asked people to stay at home as much as possible. If I suggested everyone drive over here to the parking lot, I think that could violate the request that we stay at home.

Coming back to my comments above, I don't really think that distributing Holy Communion to people in their cars is reverent. It's not like passing out flyers when people enter the parking lot. It is the Body of Christ!

Years ago, Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote an article about "fasting from the Eucharist." It went along the lines that if we had to "fast from receiving Holy Communion," we might appreciate something we have come to take for granted. It's like appreciating a good steak on Friday night all the more during and after Lent when it is not an option. Something to think about.

***How is this all affecting us financially?***

It's hurting us quite a bit. Needless to say contributions are woefully behind—about \$110,000. We did apply for the government Paycheck Relief Loan and are awaiting a reply.