

Dear parents,

Welcome back to another school year at Saint Stanislaus Kostka School. We will have as normal a school year as can be possible. Mrs Hodder, Mr Jim, the teachers and the staff have worked long and hard to disinfect each corner of the school building for the safety and health of the children, teachers and staff. In addition to the long list of actions we are taking I have purchased electrostatic precipitators for each of the classes, teachers' room, nurse's office, main and principal's offices, to purify the air. The EPs filters are certified to remove 99.9% of particulates (dust, dander, pollen, etc) and micro-organisms (microbes, bacteria, and viruses) from the ambient air. All surfaces to be sanitized are on the lists you have received.

I know that there has been concern expressed by some parents about the use of the gym/cafeteria for weekend Masses. There has also been concern about why we had to come in to the school from the tent. I have explained parts of the rationale on my facebook page including my answers to Mrs Kierst. (Please feel free to access my facebook page Kenneth Murphy at any time because it is all public and free). However I will review the reason and the procedures:

REASONS:

- 1) Our Church ordinarily seats 420 people, but when the social distancing protocols are followed we can only fit 94 people in Church. Mass attendance is between 650 and 800 people per weekend.
- 2) We had no public Masses from St Patrick's Day until we could re-open, which was scheduled for Pentecost Sunday...the other churches prepared to open, but we couldn't...according to the plan the parishioners had to be counted then when the total was reached the doors were locked and others were turned away...I didn't want to be in the position of telling Mrs Roskowinski she was 94, but Mr Roskowinski was number 95 and could not come to Mass. As it turned out the Friday before the governor lowered the Mass count to 50 at a time. (At that rate we would have to have a minimum of 13 Masses each weekend just to accommodate the fewest number of weekly attendants.)
- 3) My next choice was the cafeteria/gym area, but we couldn't at that time 6/19/20 use the school at all because the opening/cleaning/disinfecting protocols for "schools" had not been finalized by the state DOE and our plan had not yet received approval from the diocesan Office of Schools. So,
- 4) I was forced to find another solution or St Stan's wouldn't have any Masses until the Church could meet the state's social distancing requirements. That's why we rented the tent and our first public weekend Masses were on Father's Day. (it really was only a temporary solution on our way to the gym) The rental for the tent for two months was \$13,780. (a nice idea that was way too expensive), so,

5) at the end of the second month's contract the school had already received approval of their Covid operational and disinfecting protocols for the building and the Church accepted the more restrictive protocol of the school and began to use the gym/cafeteria last weekend.

PROCEDURES

0) There will be no adults in the building when the school children are present.

1) Before Mass time the school is locked off from the gym/cafeteria: the hallway gates are down and locked, the boys and girls bathrooms in the hallway are locked, all the offices are locked, the electrical/storage room is locked, the cafeteria kitchen is locked. There is no access to any bathroom except the ones in the cafeteria, and when we spot someone going (none yet) we are prepared to sanitize it directly after use and also after 12 noon Mass on Sunday.

2) We are prepared with our cleaning supplies to sanitize the chairs in the gym. They will not be used anywhere else.

3) Since no one needed to use the cafeteria for extra seating at Mass, as of this week the cafeteria will have all the aluminum doors locked.

4) After the last Mass on Sunday, the chairs will be wiped down, the handles, knobs, bleachers as well as the items listed in the school protocol list will be sanitized (if any part of the cafeteria is used the whole room will be sanitized.)

5) The cafeteria and the gym have industrial strength electrostatic precipitators installed from the days of smoking at bingo, they are the modern type professional models which are certified to remove 98.9% of organisms, microbes, micro-organisms, bacteria, and viruses as well as particulate matter. They will be on before, during, and after Masses disinfecting the air.

6) When all of the school protocols have been fulfilled, the gym doors will be locked until the next weekend Masses.

(According to the state and diocesan guidelines children are not allowed in the gym, weather permitting they must have gym outside, and weather not permitting they will be having gym in their classrooms.)

I believe you can see that there will be no negative impact on the school, the school's Covid protocols, the diocesan schools Covid protocols, or the NJDOE school Covid protocols. If you have further questions or concerns please express them to Mrs Hodder, she knows the plan almost as well as I do.

Blessings in Christ for the new school year!

Rev Kenneth R Murphy