

Bishop Says Task Force Looking at Next Steps for Diocese

By Tony DeGol
Proclaim!

In this era of coronavirus concerns, returning to normal in the Church is not as easy as pushing a button or flipping a switch.

“I wish it were that simple,” Bishop Mark stated.

The Bishop, however, is assuring the faithful that he and others are examining the appropriate next steps for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown as the universal Church and all of society continue to navigate in the unfamiliar territory of a pandemic.

Bishop Mark has assembled a task force – comprised mostly of parishioners with appropriate expertise and pastors – to assist him in this process.

The issues facing the group are critical.

For instance, before a church could even welcome the faithful back for private prayer during the day, there are multiple factors to consider such as federal and state health advisories about proper sanitizing procedures and the continuation of social distancing practices.

Changes in the Church moving forward will likely happen in phases, Bishop Mark added, similar to the way changes will happen in businesses and other aspects of life.

“I ask everyone to be patient,” he said.

Editor’s Note: Bishop Mark will offer more insight into plans for the future on the May 3 edition of Proclaim! at 10:30 a.m. on WATM ABC 23.