



Church of the Resurrection
Iglesia de la Resurrección
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

April 29, 2020

Dear Parish Family,

As Governor Abbott slowly reopens the state of Texas we will observe both the guidelines of our Archbishop, Cardinal DiNardo, and those of the Governor in an effort of charity to not spread the coronavirus.

While all parishes are permitted to open for Masses (Sunday's and weekdays) beginning as early as this weekend - per Cardinal DiNardo, pastors are asked to open when able to do so safely for all the faithful.

Know that we will continue to live stream our daily and Sunday Masses for those who choose to stay home. Cardinal DiNardo restated that **all the faithful are still dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass** while we continue to address the virus and wait for a vaccine.

As there are several responsibilities to achieve prior to opening for Mass that will take time for planning and preparation, we will **open for weekday Masses on Tuesday, May 12th with our regular weekly schedule. We will open for our regular Sunday (and Saturday evening) Mass schedule on the weekend of May 16/17.**

KEEPING OUR ELDERLY SAFE

We strongly encourage those 60 and older, and those with underlying health issues, ***TO STAY HOME AND STAY SAFE*** - participating in Mass via the Internet. For those in this group who choose to attend, we will reserve seating just for you in the front of the church. Hospitality members will direct you to your seats.

PHASE ONE: Reopening is limited to **25% capacity of our Church seating** per Governor Abbott - that's just **125** people per Mass including all clergy and liturgical ministers.

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Responsibilities to Attend Mass:

1. Please park and wait in your cars when you arrive for Mass. ***The church will open one hour before the scheduled Mass time*** and a priest or a seminarian or a volunteer will be outside to welcome you and count the number entering. Observe SOCIAL DISTANCING between families by using the tape markers.

Liturgical Ministers scheduled to serve at the Mass please enter through the back door near the working sacristy to the Hospitality minister for screening.

All others please enter through the front door of the church located on Market Street. (Only the front door of the church will be open during Mass)

2. When we reach capacity of 125, the doors will be closed and locked. Those who didn't get in as planned, may wait for the next Mass or participate via Internet in your car.

3. All are asked to practice good hygiene and wash your hands well before coming to Church. There will be hand sanitizer available at the entrance of the Church **please do not refuse to apply the hand sanitizer that will be given to you as you come in the church or you will not be let in.**

4. All are required to wear a cloth mask during Mass - removing it only after you had receive Holy Communion.

5. Please **keep a safe social distance** when:

A. Seated in pew (we will sit in every other pew - do not sit in pews that are roped off). Families will sit together in pews as you normally do, side by side. (Please remember that you will be seated by a hospitality minister as you are coming in. It will not be the same seat where you usually seat **PLEASE, PLEASE** do not argue with the hospitality minister. Maintain 6 feet between your family and the next one in a pew. Married couples sit side by side with 6 feet between you and the next individual, couple or family.

B. When going to Communion we ask all, if possible, to leave the pew and come forward observing the tape on the floor to keep the 6 feet distance while standing in line. Families are allowed to stand together. All come forward so no one must climb over you and get too close for social distancing.

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C. All offerings will be given as you come in to the church or when you come to receive Holy Communion, or at the end of Mass. **(We will not pass the collection baskets)**. The baskets will be located at the steps of the altar.

D. When leaving Church and going to your car maintain social distancing. Bulletins will be on tables at the doors and are available online.

6. **Holy Communion will be available only under the form of the consecrated Host and *MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE HAND*** per Cardinal DiNardo to protect the recipient and the minister. I realize this will be difficult for some of you but I ask that we humble ourselves in obedience and gratefully receive our Lord in this manner to practice charity towards our neighbor.

Holy Communion will be distributed by sections of seating to allow for social distancing when in line to receive and when returning to your pew.

7. **Leaving Church:** Again be mindful of proper social distancing as you leave. I ask that you depart within 10 minutes after Mass concludes so that we may sanitize the Church before the next Mass attendees enter.

We need your help: (Contact Ruby Hernandez at rhernandez@rcchouston.org)

1. Parishioners are needed to help us sanitize the church after each Mass, daily, wiping down the pews, door knobs, and other areas touched frequently by people.

2. A team of parishioners to screen all clergy and liturgical ministers when they arrive for Mass - ensuring no symptoms of the virus before being permitted to serve. Again this is prior to all Masses.

3. Additional Hospitality Ministers to welcome us and encourage us in keeping these new guidelines. To help the priests and deacon welcome parishioners and to ensure we maintain the limit of people allowed inside the Church, and to help guide parishioners when moving forward to be seated and to receive Holy Communion.

Let us thank God for his loving protection and our Blessed Mother Mary - for her prayerful intercession - as we begin to open our Church for Masses!

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United in prayer,

Fr. Oscar Dubon-Romero, Pastor

Resurrection Catholic Church, School and La Divina Providencia

odubon@rcchouston.org

