Returning to Church and What to Expect

The Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception will reopen for public Mass on Sunday at 9:00am July 12, 2020. There will be seating for 79 parishioners.

All who wish to attend are required to sign-up prior to coming to Mass.

Mass will continue to be made available via livestream at 9:00am, and we encourage anyone who is in the high-risk category or unable to attend for other reasons to join us online. Until further notice, Mass will only be held at 9:00am on Sundays.

How do I Sign Up for Mass?

Only registered parishioners will be able to reserve a seat. Please do not bring visitors.

If you have not registered yourself and members of your household using Parishsoft, please do so immediately. If you need assistance, please contact the parish office.

There are two ways to reserve a seat for Mass:

1. Online Sign-up (Monday – Wednesday before the upcoming Sunday Mass)
2. Call the Office (Monday – Wednesday before the upcoming Mass 10:00am – 2:00pm)

➢ Both methods for reserving a seat will be made available on the Monday of the week leading up to that Sunday Mass and will close that Wednesday.
➢ Your reservation will be confirmed by Wednesday afternoon by email or phone call.
➢ If you need to cancel your registration, please do so by 12:00pm on the Friday prior to Mass.
➢ For the July 12th Mass, the opportunity to sign-up will begin on Monday, July 6th, and close on Wednesday, July 8th.

The link for the online sign-up will be posted on the church’s webpage: www.basilicaofstmary.org

Don’t forget to print the confirmation and bring it with you to church.

What to Expect

Arrival

➢ Please arrive at the church by 8:30am
➢ You MUST wear a MASK. Those without masks will not be allowed to enter
   *No masks will be provided by the church
➢ You will be asked to stand in line outside of the entrance on Holt Street. The sidewalk will be marked to assist you in standing 6 feet from the people in front and behind you in line.
➢ Ushers, assisted by members of the Health and Wellness Ministry, will screen each parishioner and check them in on the list before they are granted entry to the worship space. (Please remember your confirmation printout)
➢ Upon entering, you will be asked to sanitize your hands. Sanitizer will be available.
➢ An usher will guide you into the worship space and to your seat. Everyone in attendance will be seated in a manner that will allow them to maintain proper social distancing.
➢ There will be no hymnals provided for use.
Participation during the Mass

➢ **Masks** must be **worn throughout the duration** of the Mass.
➢ **No singing:** We ask that the congregation not sing. This is unusual for us, but essential to ensure the safety of all in attendance. Please **do not sing responses** or join in the hymns. The Lord’s Prayer will be spoken.
➢ **No touching:** We will not hold hands during the Lord’s Prayer, and we ask that an alternative gesture be made to offer the sign of peace. Please refrain from hand shaking, and offering huggs, and kisses.

Offertory

➢ Please come with your envelopes prepared.
➢ There will be a basket where tithes and offerings will be collected. The basket will be placed by the entrance of the worship space (where the hymnals used to be).
➢ You will be asked to place your envelopes in the basket on the way to your seat.
➢ An usher will collect the basket once everyone has been seated. There will be no collection during the Mass.
➢ Giving online is the safest and we encourage you to consider this option.

Communion

➢ Ushers will invite people to communion one row at a time.
➢ The aisles will be marked to encourage a 6-foot distance between each person as they approach the altar to receive. Please follow the markers.
➢ Please keep your mask on as you approach and receive communion.
➢ You are strongly encouraged to receive communion in your hand. You are asked to keep your mask on as you do so.
➢ After receiving in your hand. Step to the side (away from Father), and while facing the front, lift your mask just enough to consume the host. Consume, lower your mask, and return up the side aisle to your seat.
➢ Ushers will be available to help with this process. Please follow their lead.

Dismissal

➢ At the end of Mass, please be seated and remain seated.
➢ Ushers will dismiss one row at a time.
➢ There will be no distribution of bulletins.
➢ Please return directly to your vehicle.
➢ Do not congregate in the entryway or outside of the church.
➢ Do not linger inside to talk with Deacon and Father. If you need to speak with them, please call and arrange to do so at another time.

These measures are subject to change as the status of our community continues to change during this pandemic. Changes will be provided as frequently as diocese and state regulations are updated. Please be patient.

We hope that if you attend, you leave filled with the spirit. We know that these safety measures are awkward and uncomfortable, but they are essential to keeping us healthy and whole as a body. We love you, and we look forward to seeing you.
Questions and Answers

Q: What if I am late?
A: The doors will be closed at 9am. We will have a small number of ushers, and they will be busy helping people to navigate Mass. They will not be available to provide screening or lead people to seats after 9:00am.

Q: I have a physical disability/ health condition that prevents from standing outside for a long period of time. How will I enter?
A: Those with disabilities will be granted priority for screening and will be seated as they arrive.

Q: What if the online sign-up is filled?
A: Call the office and attempt to sign up that way.

Q: What happens if I call the office after the call-in list is filled?
A: Your name will be added to the overflow list. If someone should cancel for that weekend, you will be notified and invited to come to Mass in the order that you appear on the list. The overflow list will consist of the first 10 people who call in after both online and call-in lists are filled.

Q: Will I be able to come every week?
A: The sign-up is open to everyone. A second Mass will be added when registration supports a need to do so.

Contact Information

Parish Office: 757-622-4487
Parish Website: www.basilicaofstmary.org