

OUR NEW NORMAL

While we are in the midst of this deadly pandemic, everyone is called to make adjustments. Please do not expect things to be the same when you return to Mass.

Our Mass schedule has changed temporarily

(to enable us to make adjustments as smoothly as possible)

SATURDAY AT 5:30PM SUNDAY AT 8:00AM and 11:00AM

NO ONE IS OBLIGED TO ATTEND MASS OR TO RECEIVE THE EUCHARIST UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THROUGH DISPENSATION BY BISHOP TOBIN

Even if you attend Mass, you are under no obligation to physically receive the Eucharist. If you desire it with your heart, you miraculously receive it – this is called *Spiritual Communion* and has been a long standing tradition of the Church.

IF YOU ARE FEELING ILL IN ANY WAY – PLEASE STAY HOME AS A WORK OF CHARITY

We are all hyper alert. Coughing or sneezing makes those around you very uncomfortable and puts them in danger. If this happens to you while at church please exit immediately.

ONE ENTRANCE AND MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 175 PEOPLE

Only the courtyard entrance will be available. Please remain 6 feet apart as you enter the church. And be ready for the following...

MASKS

Masks will be required for everyone throughout the entirety of Mass, unless you have a medical reason. If you can sew or purchase masks, please consider donating them to us.

HAND SANITIZING

Upon entering, you will be asked to sanitize your hands. Doors will be propped open so no one touches handles.

HAVE YOUR DONATION READY (NO PASSING OF COLLECTION BASKETS)

Please have your budget envelopes / donation ready as you enter the church; there will be no passing of the baskets. We have a VERY SECURE VAULT into which you can simply drop your donation.

SOCIAL DISTANCE SEATING

Please select an available pew quickly. Proceed forward and be seated starting from the Altar area first then towards the back of the church. This will greatly reduce people from cross each other's paths. **SIT ONLY WITH YOUR "INNER CIRCLE ISOLATION GROUP"** i.e. your family or spouse. An individual has the right to his/her own pew section. No squeezing in or calling each other pew hogs!

MUSIC AND MISSALETTES

The missalettes have been removed. Singing increases the risk of spreading the virus. Thus, singing will be limited – I never thought I would say this “Please sing softly!” If you have a hearing impairment, you may find the readings on your smart phone at the USCCB DAILY READINGS website or we will provide you with a missalette which is yours to keep and bring with you when you attend. Our lectors will be instructed to read clearly and loudly.

EUCHARIST AND EXITING

St. Mary’s is unique in that we have a treacherous step as one approaches the altar, plus our aisles are very narrow and we cannot have people backtracking into each other’s faces. Thus, THE EUCHARIST WILL BE DISTRIBUTED FROM THE REAR OF THE CHURCH AND ATTENDEES SHOULD EXIT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER from the nearest exit. Let me elaborate: An usher will call your row to stand to receive communion. Do not stand until you are called by an usher. Stay 6 FEET APART. When you are next in line to receive communion, only then should you take off your mask. Receive on the hand (while remaining as steady as possible) and then exit prayerfully.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and the priest will be wearing masks; some may even wear eye protection. They are not allowed to wear gloves nor is any communicant allowed to wear gloves. If any of us make contact with your skin (or tongue) we are then required to sanitize our hands thoroughly. SO PLEASE BE PATIENT ... receiving communion might be stressful and slow.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS – BREEDING GROUNDS FOR THE VIRUS

Using any public restroom comes with extreme risks. The Sacristy restroom will be closed. The restroom in the Rectory will be available but only upon request in the event of an emergency. Be ready to sanitize it for your own use; one never knows what germs were left behind by the previous occupant! Best advice... Go before you leave your house and skip the coffee until you get home!

MORE PRAYERFUL THAN EVER

While it may be stressful and odd at first, we have a unique opportunity to enter more deeply into prayer while waiting for Mass to begin. Chit-chatting while inside the church is greatly discouraged. Catch up with friends and family outside where it is much safer.

I, FR. KRIS, WILL CELEBRATE ALL MASSES until things begin to run smoothly. Please be patient with me! Please know I am elated that we can celebrate together again. However, if I seem grumpy or aloof, it is due to the stress of trying to keep us all as safe as possible.

For volunteers until further notice...

- We will require only two EM’s per Mass and please volunteer only if you are in the best of health.
- We will require one Lector (please be ready with the first and second readings plus the Prayer of the Faithful).
- Volunteer check-in will be at the statue of St. Joseph. Processing and recessing are suspended.
- If you need a temporary leave of absence from your duties, please let us know... we understand completely!