

## Liturgical Guidelines Concerning Limited Public Mass at St. Michael Catholic Church

As of May 9, 2020, the suspension of the public celebration of Mass, which was given March 13, 2020 is hereby lifted. Public Mass on a limited basis may be celebrated in the parishes of the Diocese of Pueblo according to the recommendations for safe practices given by the state of Colorado, as determined appropriate to their local county or municipality, to limit the spread of the Coronavirus.

The principles of Intentional Social Distancing, Limited Mass Attendance, and Necessary Liturgical Changes should be followed in such a way that they reflect both the safety recommendations of the local county or municipality and the pastoral care of souls.

The preparation, transition, and implementation of the limited reopening of public Mass should be guided by the Liturgical Guidelines Concerning Limited Public Mass, as provided by the Diocesan Office of Liturgy and Worship.

- 1. The General Dispensation from the Sunday Mass Obligation by Bishop Stephen Berg remains in effect until further notice.**
- LIMITED NUMBERS** – Due to the civil recommendations, the number of people who will be able to attend any given Mass may be reduced. The limited public offering of Mass is an outreach to those who may safely attend. It will not satisfy our expectations of regular Mass attendance. The opening of daily Masses (beginning on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.) will provide an added opportunity for worship and communion for the faithful to look forward to, as can be offered in charity.
- WEIGH THE RISK** – Even with best practices, the risk of infection exists anytime a person leaves their house. Anyone in a higher risk category, or showing any symptoms of illness, is encouraged to stay home. Participation in livestreamed or recorded Mass along with making a spiritual communion, keeps us in mind of our love of God and neighbor during these troubling times, and is a source of true consolation. All who choose to attend Mass will be asked if they are experiencing any symptoms of illness upon entering our worship building. For the sake of charity, please be honest with us, but if you say yes to any symptoms of any contagious disease, we are not allowed to let you enter.\*
- GERM MITIGATION** – Those who attend Mass are required when at all possible\* to wear a mask or cloth face covering, refrain from unnecessarily touching surfaces, and use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be made available for each parishioner to use upon entering the gathering space and also in numerous locations within the sanctuary to use during Mass as needed. The worship space(s) will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.\*
- SOCIAL DISTANCING** – **The church and all areas used have been rearranged in accordance with guidelines to keep a safe distance of all who gather for worship.** Respect social distancing of at least 6 feet apart from each other in the pew with every other row seating plus follow the directions for seating that are outlined with tape in the designated worship space and observe other safety precautions as needed. Families living together don't need to social distance from each other. (Please understand that you may not be able to sit in your usual spot during this transition process.) Ushers will be available to assist you in seating.
- COLLECTION** – A centralized basket will be located in front of the altar. Attendees wishing to make an offering in person are invited to process forward (maintaining social distancing) during the Offertory. Please consider the opportunity to make your donation through online giving. It is still important to support our parish through these difficult times. If you for any reason, do not wish to join in the offertory procession, you may give your offering to one of the principal ministers serving at the Mass and they will put it in the collection for you.

7. **OUR FATHER** – When praying the Our Father, we should not hold hands. Simply extend your hands toward heaven, or fold your hands in prayer.
8. **SIGN OF PEACE** – Simply nod your head or smile, wave to those around. Avoid bodily contact.
9. **HOLY COMMUNION** – **Is limited under one specie of the Precious Body at this time.** Please remove your mask when you enter the procession line, then purify your hands with the hand sanitizer provided in the aisles. **DO NOT** remove your mask up front at the communion station. Receiving communion in the hand is strongly encouraged out of Christian charity and concern for the safety and sensibilities of our brothers and sisters who may themselves be vulnerable; related to those who are vulnerable, or may have contact with vulnerable populations. For those wishing to receive communion on the tongue, we invite you to wait until everyone who has received in the hand has come forward first, then join the end of the procession line. If you do not feel comfortable going up to communion during the procession, you may receive the Eucharist at the end of Mass.
10. **HYMNALS & MISSALS** – Due to the difficulties in sanitizing worship spaces between liturgies, we have removed the missals / hymnals from our worship spaces. Parishioners are invited to bring their own missal and prayer books.
11. **BEFORE & AFTER MASS** – Unfortunately and sadly, we will not be able to socialize before and after Mass at this time. Hopefully, we can put this behind us in the future.
12. **COMMUNION SERVICES** – Because of the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves and because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are suspending communion services on Monday mornings.

***Please prepare your hearts out of gratitude and charity to follow these guidelines. While we respect everyone's views on this difficult situation, these prudent guidelines allow us to reverently celebrate Mass while also being cautious and respectful of everyone's safety.***

***We pray that this will be beneficial for all.***

***We also ask for your patience, understanding and prayers as we navigate through the unprecedented challenges before us.***

***Let's keep our trust in the Lord, to see this through until we can gather again in full.***

***We will continue to update you as the state and Diocesan guidelines adjust during this transition.***

***\*requirement of the Fremont County variance approval dated May 20, 2020***

