

As governmental agencies begin to ease certain restrictions placed on movement and public gatherings, our Archdiocese has decided to open churches for public Masses while at the same time observing practices that help to minimize the spread of the virus. Our parish will be reopening the church for masses on Sundays as well as weekdays starting this Sunday, May 10. Our Mass time will be as before the COVID-19: Sunday. 10:15am.

The Guidelines:

- Catholics do not feel compelled to attend Mass during the ongoing pandemic, the dispensation given by the Archbishop from the obligation for Catholics to attend Sunday Mass will remain in effect until it is safe to revoke it.
- Persons with higher vulnerability to the virus, for personal safety reasons, are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the dispensation and refrain from attending public Mass.
- Out of charity and concern for the welfare of others, anyone with any kind of acute symptoms, a fever or recent exposure to an infected person should not attend religious services.
- Livestreaming of the Masses will be continued for those who opt not to attend in person.
- Parishioners are to attend Mass at the parish in which they are registered or which they normally attend. Parish “hopping” should be avoided.
- Everyone who attends the church should wear a mask, covering the mouth and nose, prior to entering the church until after leaving the church.
 - If you don’t have a mask, please contact one of the ladies of the parish whose contact info has been sent to you earlier.
- Everyone purifies hands with sanitizer before entering the church.
- Except for those who live in the same house, individuals must observe a minimum of six-foot spacing from other individuals or household groups.
 - To allow the proper distancing required, church attendance will be limited to 30% of the maximum seating capacity of the church space.
 - Seating spots will be marked with a ribbon and there will be ushers to help with seating.
- The use of shared Hymnals & Music Books will be discontinued in the church.
 - Congregational singing is suspended until further notice to limit droplet dispersion
- Collection will not be taken up by the Ushers; instead a basket at entrances will be kept to drop your offerings.
- To receive Holy Communion, approach the minister only one pew at a time, always observing six-foot minimum distancing between individuals who are not members of the same household.
 - This requires only one line for Holy Communion with no side by side standing.
 - Sacred Host will be carefully “dropped” into the cupped hand of the recipient, avoiding skin to skin contact between minister and recipient.
 - A video link to mask usage practices will be sent to you soon.
- To avoid congestion at doors, as many doors as possible are used for entry and departure from the worship space.
- Entry and exit doors should be propped open to avoid the need for people to touch the door.
- The above guidelines for Sunday Mass are adapted for daily Masses too.

Depending on the number of people wanting to attend the Mass during this time, a second Mass will be introduced if needed.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Fr. Reginald S.