

Public Mass Protocols

Masses will be open to the public *beginning Friday, May 1*. The schedule for the celebration of the Eucharist will be as follows:

- *Daily Masses: M, W, F--5:30pm
T, Th--7:30am
- *Sunday Masses: Saturday--6:00pm
Sunday--8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00noon (Spanish)

If you are not comfortable attending Mass, **Dispensation for Sunday obligation remains in place through the end of May**, and we will continue to livestream the Saturday Vigil Mass at 6:00 pm.

Confessions will be heard in the cry room and the Baptistry:

- Saturday Evenings: 4:30-5:30pm
- M, W, F: 5:00pm (before the Daily Mass)

In order to facilitate the Diocesan guidelines, the following protocols will be followed at weekend Masses:

- *No more than 125 people can be in the church at a time (25% capacity). This is a government requirement, so please try to arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass to help give us plenty of time to seat everyone.
- ***Masks must be worn**
- *Ushers will greet and seat attendees, and will have hand sanitizer as you enter the church.
- ***Please use the main entrance of the church**, not the side doors.
- *There will be no missals or hymnals in the church until further notice. If you wish to use a missal, ushers will be **distributing one per family**. However, if you take one, this Missal becomes yours to keep. Please take it home with you and bring it back whenever you come to Mass. No items can be left in the church. Any items left must be destroyed.
- *Families may sit as groups; all other shall maintain social distancing. Pews will be marked off for spacing. Ushers will direct you where to sit.
- *Communion will be administered solely by the presiding Priest. **Procession will be single file with distancing**. Ushers will facilitate.
- *Only the Narthex restroom will be accessible and the cry room and Baptistry are closed to seating due to being used as confessionals.
- *There will be no music this week. We will see how it goes regarding future participation.
- *Please **place your collection envelope in the basket as you enter or exit the church**, as there will not be a collection basket passed around. We realize that these are difficult times, but collections have been down considerably and we ask that you consider giving your weekly contribution to help the church continue to operate. You can also continue to mail your contributions to the church (P.O. Box 669, Columbus, TX 78934).
- ***The pews and bathroom will be sanitized between each of the Masses to the best of our ability**. You are encouraged to leave right after mass without gathering in large groups.

We are requesting volunteers for ushering and cleaning the church between each of the Masses. We need two volunteers for each Mass for ushering this weekend. Any help with the cleaning is also greatly appreciated.

Lastly, we ask for patience and prayers as we navigate through these uncharted waters. We will surely learn lessons and most likely make mistakes as we go along, but as Catholics, our primary reason for attending mass is a personal and physical encounter with Christ. That will be happening so praise God for this opportunity! Let us do all we can to ensure that it continues. As always, we are open to all questions and comments.

Those unable to attend the Mass, or are uncomfortable attending a public Mass, may come to the church office from 2:00-4:00pm on Sundays to receive Communion from Fr. Augustine.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions. (979)732-2562 ext 3 is Father's direct line.

Yours in Christ,
St. Anthony Catholic Church