

New Directives for Mass from Father Chris

As our country begins to open up, I am looking forward to celebrating public Masses with you. These Masses as I said last week at the live streamed Mass will have some changes that we are not used to but will help everyone that attends to have a reverent and safe Mass. Here are some of the changes that I hope you will roll with and accept:

We are allowed to start up the weekday Masses on Monday May 25- Memorial Day. Usually I would have two Masses that day at each of the parish cemeteries. That will not happen this year. I will have one Mass on Memorial Day and it will be inside Sacred Heart church at 8:30 a.m. and it will be live streamed. I believe this is a good way to help our senior citizens (most of the people that attend this Mass) that are more susceptible to the Corona virus to participate in the Mass and still be safe at home.

Once we begin the weekday Masses then the daily Holy Hours will return as well. Also, the Thursday (5:30 p.m.) and Saturday (3:30 p.m.) Confession times will return.

Since we are not supposed to exceed 50% capacity in the churches, every other pew will be closed- not available for seating. There will be a rope of some kind on these pews to make it obvious. Families may sit together and fill up a pew. But the other pews should have no more than four people being seated. Here are some of the other changes for Masses ** There will be no procession at the beginning or end of Mass for the clergy and servers. ** There will be no Offertory- Bringing up the gifts. The gifts will be on the credence table as it has been for the live streamed Masses. ** There will be no Collection by the ushers. There will be a basket marked- Collection Envelopes- that you can drop in your collection money as you enter or leave the church.** Once the time reception of the Eucharist begins people need to exit the pew from the side and not the center so that we maintain social distance.** Everyone please receive the Eucharist on the hand and not on the tongue.** Once the Mass is over people need to maintain social distancing when they exit and should not get into tight groups once outside.

Some other things you need to be aware of:

The churches will be cleaned before and after every Mass.

Additional Mass

There will be an additional Vigil Mass on Saturday- 7 p.m. at St. Joseph. Since seating is limited for weekend Masses, I wanted to offer an additional Mass. This Mass may not always have music, but it will count as a Sunday Mass. I will continue this Mass as long as I deem it to be necessary.

It is highly recommended to wear face masks to church but it is not mandatory.** In order to allow all parishioners to attend Sunday Mass it would be good if you picked one weekend a month to attend so that all the parishioners can attend at least once a month.

The elderly, those that are not feeling well and those with underlying conditions should remain at home and not come to Mass.

Thanks, and God Bless!!!
Fr. Chris