

Reopening Public Mass Protocols

St. Thomas' Sunday Mass Protocols

- DISPENSATION is still in effect;
NO ONE is obligated to attend a Sunday Mass.
- Church capacity will be extremely reduced due to social distancing; overflow seating will be available in the gym and parish hall to view Mass on-line and receive Holy Communion.
- If you do not feel well, or you think there is a possibility of exposure to Covid-19, DO NOT come to any Mass.
PLEASE put protecting others first, especially our priests.
- The vulnerable, the elderly and those with compromised health concerns, are discouraged from attending any Weekend Masses; however, they are, instead, encouraged to attend a Daily Mass during the week.
- Children under the age of seven are discouraged from attending any Weekend Masses, as well.
- **For now, there will be NO 7:30 AM Mass on Sundays.**
- **All adults and children 7 & up entering the building for Mass as a part of the congregation are REQUIRED to provide their own mask or appropriate facial covering and wear them at all times. They can only be removed briefly to receive Holy Communion in the hand – you may NOT receive Holy Communion on the tongue nor while wearing gloves. One species - NO CUP.**
- **VERY IMPORTANT: ALL restrooms are CLOSED; this extends to the nursery, cry room, and baby changing stations. Water fountains are closed, as well.**
- There will be no missalettes or hearing enhancement devices available. General collection envelopes located in the pews have been removed. No Holy Water – fonts still remain empty.
- Your offering may be placed in the collection basket at the back of church as you enter and are waiting to be seated by the ushers. There will be No Offertory Gifts brought up to the altar either.

- ALL safety protocols for social distancing will be maintained by the congregation at all times. No physical Signs of Peace other than with your family.
- Bulletins will only be available as you leave.
- ONLY the **SOUTH Entrance** (closest to the Baptist Church) will be open for entry. You, and whoever is in the car, will be screened by our officers and PLEASE be honest when asked their questions. They will assign you a parking lot, either North or South, as well as an entrance into the building – Either **Entrance “A” or “B”** – all other doors will be locked. If you or someone in the car does not meet all the requirements, or we are at a reduced attendance capacity, you will be asked not to attend Mass.
- Parking lots will ONLY open ONE HOUR before Mass time... PLEASE do not show up earlier than one hour, for it will only complicate our situation and will actually delay entry into church.
- Entrances “A” & “B” will both be locked from any further entry at Mass time.
- After entering the church, ushers will initially seat everyone in the church, and then, dismiss them from each pew for Holy Communion and also for the final exiting. Stay where you are until directed to do otherwise – Social Distancing will be maintained.
- Holy Communion and exiting the church will be very different, please wait for an usher’s instructions. **Please, do not have any expectations of normalcy.**
- After Mass, there is no socializing or gathering in groups, in or around the church, especially after the 9:00 AM Mass, where we will only have a limited amount of time to get the building & parking lot vacated, clean the church, and get everyone seated for the next Mass by 11:15 AM. Please help us by leaving quickly.
- ALL parking lot exits will be OPEN to leave, including the back gate.
- **The 11:15 AM Mass will still be live-streamed.**
- ***FINALLY, if you are at the very least uncomfortable or have your doubts about you or your family’s health and well-being, PLEASE continue to watch Mass on-line thru our website.***

St. Thomas' Daily Mass Protocols

- **Everyone attending MUST provide their own facial covering and wear it into the church.**
- Please use the North Parking Lot (closest to the Rectory) for parking. **Entrance "B"** will be the ONLY entrance open for Daily Mass.
- For now, Daily Mass will remain at 11:00 AM, with doors opening at 10:15 AM... PLEASE do not come any earlier.
- Mass will take place in the main church and will continue to be streamed on-line daily.
- All social distancing protocols are in effect and everyone will be seated and dismissed by a parish staff member.
- **Restrooms will be CLOSED along with water fountains.**
- Finally, DO NOT have any expectations of normalcy.

FINAL Points, for now,

- The Church Offices will remain closed to public entry; however, the parish staff will be back to work and the phones will be answered.
- The Adoration Chapel will remain closed, for now.
- Groups or Organizations can still NOT meet at St. Thomas until further notice.