

Updated Public Mass Protocols

St. Thomas' Sunday Mass Protocols

- DISPENSATION is still in effect;
NO ONE is obligated to attend a Sunday Mass.
- 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 where crowds are less numerous.
- Children under the age of seven are still discouraged from attending any Weekend Masses.
- Church capacity is extremely reduced due to social distancing requirements, currently, *about 180 people is the best we can fit into the main church*. Overflow seating is available in the gym and parish hall to view Mass and receive Holy Communion.
- **For now, there will be a 7:00 AM Mass on Sunday Mornings**, along with 9:00 & 11:15. Saturday Mass is still at 5:00 PM.
- **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.**
- The Nursery and water fountains remain closed.
- There are still no hearing enhancement devices or missalettes for general use available, (but, they are available to take home).
- **No Holy Water – fonts still remain empty.** If you would like some Holy Water, please bring a bottle of water and Father will bless it for you to take home.
- **The 5-minute mandate remains in effect:** At 5 minutes until the start of Mass, everyone will be directed to the South Parking Lot, will enter Entrance “A” and be seated in the gym for viewing Mass.

- 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 are NO Offertory Gifts brought up to the altar either.
- ALL safety protocols for social distancing will be maintained by the congregation and mask wearing is required at all times while in church. 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) is open for entry. You, and whoever is in the car, will be screened by our officers and PLEASE be honest when asked any 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. (*We do this to keep the church BALANCED on either side.*) If you or someone in the car does not meet all the requirements, or we are at a maximum attendance capacity, you will be asked not to attend Mass.
- Parking lots ONLY open ONE HOUR before Mass time... PLEASE do not show up earlier than one hour, for it will only complicate our situation and actually could delay entry into church.
The parking lot will CLOSE at Mass time.
- **At Mass time, (INCLUDING Daily Mass) Doors are locked from any further entry.** *So, don't be late!*
- 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 are different, for now, 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 7:00 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 8:55 AM. Please help us by leaving quickly.
- Parking lots exit unto Coulter ONLY. The back gate will currently remain locked.

- With *SOME* R.E. Classes beginning at St. Thomas on October 4th, please be aware that the parking lot situations will be more complicated on Sundays between 10:00-11:10 AM, from now on.
- **The 11:15 AM Mass is still being 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 at all times.**
- **All Social Distancing Protocols remain in place for now.**
- Please use the North Parking Lot (closest to the Rectory) for parking. **Entrance "B"** is the ONLY entrance open for Daily Mass.
- For now, Daily Mass is at 9:00 AM, with doors opening at 8:15 AM... **PLEASE** do not come any earlier... And Don't BE LATE! **Doors are locked at Mass time with no further entry into the building.**
- Mass takes place in the main church and continues to be streamed on-line daily.
- All social distancing protocols remain in effect. Everyone will seat themselves; however, everyone will *still* be dismissed by pews for Holy Communion and at the end of Mass.
- Finally, DO NOT have any expectations of normalcy.

FINAL Points, for now,

- The Church Offices still remain closed to the general public; however, the parish staff is back to work and the phones are being answered. Appointments can be made with Staff Members.
- **The Adoration Chapel still remains CLOSED, for now.**
- **There are Confessions on Saturdays @ 3:30 PM.** Confessions are in the Parlor and Entrance "B" will be opened at 3:15 PM for entry.
- You may call the office and set-up a private Confession, as well.
- **There are NO Wednesday Confessions, for now.**
- Groups or Organizations can still NOT meet at St. Thomas until further notice.