

St. Catherine of Siena Church

Directives for Public Masses

beginning June 27, 2020, updated October 1, 2020



We are grateful to be able to celebrate the Mass together. We are committed to disinfect and clean the church and the public spaces of the Parish Center in a way that will ensure trust. We are confident that parishioners and visitors will follow all the directions listed here for the safety of all.

Attendance at Mass:

- No one should come to Mass if they are ill (including the priest and all ministers).
- Bishop Matano has extended the dispensation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. Therefore, you should not feel obligated to come to the church building. Mass will continue to be livestreamed and are available any time afterward for viewing at www.tinyurl.com/StCatLivestream.
- Those who are over the age of 65, those who are vulnerable due to underlying health issues, and those who are caring for others at risk should consider not attending Mass.
- The weekend Mass schedule remains the same: Saturday at 5 p.m.; Sunday at 9 and 11:30 a.m.
- St. Catherine's will celebrate daily Mass on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m.

Before Mass Starts:

- Please plan to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass so that you can be seated in an organized and safe way. No one will be allowed into the church after Mass has begun.
- Everyone (over the age of 2) is required to wear a face mask prior to leaving their car or arriving on church property. This mask must be worn throughout Mass.
- The only entrance that will be used is the entrance via the Parish Center. This provides the largest parking lot with accessible entrances.
- Upon entering, please use hand sanitizer that is provided.
- Each household/individual/group should sign in so that we have a way of contacting you if needed with health information.
- Line up in the walkway, maintaining social distancing from those from other households. There are markers on the floor to assist you in maintaining social distance.
- Hospitality ministers will seat people in the church, providing for social distancing within the pews.
- Children must stay with their parents at all times.
- Once seated, please stay in your pew. There is no physical visiting allowed within the church.
- The music and prayers for Mass will continue to be provided in the bulletin which is distributed as you arrive for Mass. Please take the bulletin with you when leaving the church.

Mass:

- We are not singing within the Church building. Our choir pre-records music for our Masses. We invite you to participate in the sign language "singing" of the Alleluia and the Great Amen.
- There will be no hand holding during the Our Father prayer.
- The Sign of Peace should be done through words and gesture, without touch to non-family members.
- If you use the kneelers during Mass, please leave them in the down position so that our Cleaning Crew knows to clean them prior to the next Mass.

Distribution of Communion:

- Only the Sacred Host will be distributed to the faithful.
- We ask that you only receive the host in your hand (not on the tongue).
- When coming forward, keep your mask in place until after you have received the host from the priest/Communion minister. Once it is received, step to the side, lower your mask, consume the host, and replace your mask before returning to your seat.
- There will be one Communion minister for each section of the church. The line for Communion should be single file. Hospitality ministers will assist you in maintaining social distancing.

Dismissal:

- At the conclusion of Mass, please remain in your pew until directed by the hospitality minister to leave the church. Please maintain the 6-foot social distancing from the people ahead of you leaving church.
- If you wish to do any visiting, please exit the Parish Center and move away from the entrance and do your visiting in the parking lot.
- You are not allowed to remain in the Church for private prayer. All must vacate the Church at the end of Mass so that the cleaning crews can prepare the Church for the next Mass.

Donations:

- If you are not currently donating online, the Offering Boxes are located in the entrance area of the church and in the Atrium of the Parish Center. Please put your envelopes, checks, or cash donation in those boxes upon entering or leaving the Church. We will not be passing collection baskets.
- We will not be accepting food donations for the time being.

Physical Spaces:

- The Children's Chapel (Cry Room) is closed until further notice.
- The bathroom in the church and one bathroom in the Parish Center will be open. These spaces will be cleaned after each Mass. Please limit their use as much as possible.
- There are no devotional candles, printed resources, hymnals, or extra furniture in the church, to reduce surfaces that need to be cleaned.
- Every other pew will be used. Pews not in use will be cordoned off.
- Holy water has been removed from the fonts.
- There is an online Book of Intentions on the home page of our website, under News and Events: <https://tinyurl.com/StCatIntentions>. You are welcome to add your prayer requests and we will continue to pray for them at Mass.

St. Catherine's Is a Welcoming Community:

This will feel very different from your usual experience of liturgy at St. Catherine's. You won't be sitting in your normal spot, surrounded by familiar faces. You won't be able to go and say hello to those you haven't seen in a while. You won't be able to reach out your hands for the Our Father and the Sign of Peace. We will, however, be together again! You will be able to warmly greet those who will be sitting near you. You will be able to extend a Sign of Peace that expresses Christian love toward others. You will be able to help create a vibrant experience of Mass by your participation (albeit mask-muffled) that will help us all engage in our liturgy with joy and enthusiasm. Families and communities have found new ways of connecting in the midst of this pandemic, and we will find new ways of ensuring that St. Catherine's continues to be a welcoming community within these directives that will keep us safe. Let us also be sure to include, as best we can, a welcoming presence for those who, because of illness, risk, or caretaking duties, will remain within our online community for the time being.

June 10, 2020: These directives will be updated as we continue to learn best practices and as situations change.