

Welcome as we return to Mass at St. Edward!

7.22.2020

Public Masses have resumed at our parish and we hope that the steps we're taking to protect your health and safety will give you the confidence to return. We continue to be thankful to God and all he has done for us! As we come together with gratitude, let us remember that our supreme concern as the Body of Christ must be the common good of all our members. This will require a level of sacrifice from each of us, which we undertake out of charity (love) for each other. These parts will help you know what to expect at St. Edward.

- Please do not put yourself or others at risk. Do not come to Mass if you have a fever or other symptoms of illness. Seniors and those with medical conditions are encouraged to watch our live-streamed Mass or a televised Mass. Live-streamed Mass at St. Edward can be found by visiting our [YouTube channel](#).
- Everyone who is medically able is expected to wear a mask.
- Seating will respect social distancing. Only those in the same household should sit together. Many pews will continue to be marked to remain empty, and individuals or households will sit at the ends of the open pews. A liturgy host/usher will help you find your seat. This means that you may not be able to sit in your usual pew. Let's take this opportunity to see the Mass from a new point of view! If needed, we will have overflow seating in the church hall, where the livestream can be viewed.
- The *Breaking Bread* missalettes have been removed for now. If possible, we ask that you access the worship aid digitally on your phone/electronic device via our website (www.sted.org). A limited number of single-use paper worship aids will be available and will be recycled after each Mass.
- Holy Communion will be received at your place. A Eucharistic minister will use the empty spaces to travel to each communicant. Please stand as the minister approaches to indicate your desire to receive and remain standing until you receive. Please receive Holy Communion on a plainly open hand.
- Be mindful of social distancing yourself at all times: before, during, and after Mass. Please keep at least 6 feet from anyone not in your household whenever possible. Physical contact must be eliminated as much as possible for now. This means:
 - Recite the *Our Father* without holding the hands of others.
 - The Sign of Peace will be omitted.
 - Receive the Sacred Host in a plainly open hand only (no reception on the tongue).
- Our financial offering during the preparation of gifts joins the bread and wine as a symbol of returning the work of our hands to God, who has given us everything and consecrates our offering. In place of the usual collection, there will be a basket at each entrance, where you can place your offering as you enter/leave. This is a great time to consider electronic tithing (EFT) or online giving. More information about online giving is available [here](#).
- After Mass, anyone willing to help sanitize the seats and high touch areas of the church, please meet at the sanitation cart, which will be brought out near the St. Mary statue following Mass.
- Otherwise, due to COVID-19 precautions, please take the opportunity to gather outside rather than inside the church.

We are aware that things can and likely will change quickly at points during which we are moving forward. We appreciate the patience and understanding of all. God, please, continue to lead us in safety and health along the path of your way!