

Guidelines for Reopening

We are overjoyed at being able to celebrate together again the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass here at St. Francis de Sales parish. The following guidelines have been put together after careful thought and preparation and in keeping with the “*Protocols for the Reopening of Churches to Public Liturgical Celebrations*” issued on May 18, 2020 by the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese. These guidelines are how we hope to continue to be prudent in our concern for the health and safety of all. However, there still will be a risk for anyone who attends a public Mass. Even with best health practices and strict social distancing, anyone who enters a public space should recognize there is a risk of contracting the coronavirus. Improved cleaning will occur at our church, but no one should expect that they will be any safer from germs in church than in other public spaces. Therefore the dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains in effect until further notice. Those who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, i.e. those sixty (60) years of age and over, and especially those with one or several underlying medical conditions, should continue to follow Mass at home via live stream or television until all restrictions are removed.

Weekend Liturgies

Weekend Masses will be:

- Saturday 4:00PM-4:45PM - Confession
- Saturday 5:00 PM – we are asking this Mass be reserved for those who are at high risk, those with pre-existing conditions or compromised health or over 60 years old.
- Sunday 8:00 AM
- Sunday 10:00 AM – this Mass will also be live streamed on our Facebook page.
- Sunday 12:00 PM

Arrival:

- We ask that you please park in the upper main parking lot. Only the main doors to the Church will be open, not the social hall door from the back-parking lot.
- It will be mandatory to wear a face mask at all times while in Church.
- The doors to church will be opened 20 minutes before the start of mass on Sunday in order to give us time to clean and sanitize between masses.
- The church will be allowed to have 25% of capacity, which is approximately 100 people at each mass. When we reach that number, we will not be able to admit any others into the church until the next mass.
- At this time admittance will be on a first come basis The saving or reserving of seats for others is not permitted.
- Please maintain social distancing (6ft distance) at all times while on Church property.
- For the safety and protection of all, we ask that the bathrooms be used only in an emergency.
- If possible, please bring your own personal hand sanitizer as supplies are very limited.
- We ask that you do not enter other areas of the Church buildings at this time.

Seating:

- To maximize the number of people we can accommodate and keep a safe social distance, the Ushers will seat you as we only have every other pew available. This may mean that you will not be able to sit in your regular pew or section.
- Once seated, we ask that people do not change their seats.
- Members of the same family or couples will be seated together.
- In order to reduce the number of “touch points”, the kneelers will be down, please do not put them up at any time.

During the Mass:

- There will be no collection taken during the mass, baskets will be available in the Atrium for your offertory donations and envelopes
- We ask there be no handholding during the Our Father and we will not exchange the sign of peace.
- Since singing has been identified as a high-risk activity, congregational singing has been discouraged, therefore we will recite many parts of the mass that we usually sing.

Communion:

- The Ushers will guide people through the Communion Rite.
- We will have one (1) communion line down the center aisle and one (1) line one on each side aisle (along the windows) of the church.
- We ask that you keep your mask on until you reach the priest/minister and then lower it, receive communion, and then replace your mask.
- At this time, the Precious Blood will not be distributed. A reminder that both the host and the Precious Blood, contain the entire Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- While returning to your seat, please be careful of others and maintain a good distance between fellow parishioners.
- It is suggested that communion be received in the hand, however if you wish to receive on the tongue, we ask that you please receive only from the priest or deacon in the center aisle.

End of Mass:

- The Ushers will have people exit 1 row at a time starting at the back of the Church.
- While we do not want to rush anyone after mass, please recognize that that the whole church must be cleaned and sanitized between each mass.
- We will all want to catch up and socialize after not having seen each other for such a long time, however we ask that groups not gather in the church atrium for the health and safety of all parishioners.
- The gift shop at this time will be remaining closed.

Weekday Mass

- Weekday mass will resume on Monday June 15th at 8:30am
- Weekday masses will be held in the main church.
- Masks must be worn at all times while in the Church building.
- For the safety and protection of all, we ask that the bathrooms be used only in an emergency.
- In order to maintain a safe social distance, we ask that those attending daily mass use only the two center sections of pews.
- Please fill in starting from the front and sit 6ft apart. There are blue tape markings indicating 6ft distances to help with spacing.
- Communion will be distributed as on Sunday, with communicants coming forward while maintaining 6ft spacing, lowering their mask when approaching the priest, and returning their mask after receiving communion.

Private Prayer throughout the Day

- The chapel will be open for private prayer throughout the day from 9am-2pm
- The blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the chapel throughout the day for visits and private prayer.
- We ask that you do not enter the main church or other parts of the church buildings at this time.