



Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

3300 Clarksville St. ~ Paris, TX 75460

903-784-1000 www.olvparis.org

Diocese of Tyler



Updated Temporary Mass Guidelines (effective May 7, 2020 at OLV)

Dear Parishioners,

Thankfully, under new directives from the Office of the Governor and guidelines from Bishop Strickland, we once again will be able to meet and celebrate Mass as a congregation. However, we must be very intentional in following the guidelines set by the Diocese in order to prevent further spread of the virus until the threat passes.

While our parish cannot guarantee that the building or gathering is virus-free, we are taking approved measures to foster an environment that is low risk. We must all practice appropriate hygiene, social distancing and reasonable precautions. So that public Masses may continue, we ask you to please read and cooperate with the following points:

- 1) There is NO obligation to attend Mass at this time. The Bishop's dispensation will remain in effect until the risk of Coronavirus has passed. There is a moral obligation NOT to come to church when one feels sick or is possibly contagious. (details please see the Basic COVID-19 information below),
- 2) If you choose to come to OLV, we ask that you please:
Wear a mask, sanitize your hands before entering the church, observe social distancing, and if you receive Holy Communion it is strongly recommended to receive in the hand. Please use your discretion; Holy Communion will not be denied.
- 3) Please arrive at least 30 minutes early for Mass to allow adequate time for ushers to seat people. We suspect that there will be sufficient space in the church for those desiring to attend. Seating space has been configured to maintain social distancing. If, by chance there are more people at church than can be seated within the guidelines, a few can social distance in the foyer, the remainder will have to wait outdoors. Please follow the guidance of the ushers. Please let Fr. Denzil know when this happens and we will attempt to add another Mass or provide for overflow seating in the Parish Hall. If possible, we strongly recommend that young children stay home at this time as it can be difficult for them to maintain social distance. Children ages 8 years and older, who have already made their First Communion, are welcome to attend Mass provided they can wear a mask.
- 4) For those with concerns about exposure or a crowd, since there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, a person can come to a weekday Mass (which will be held in the main church) that typically has only a few people in attendance.
- 5) Any interaction with people carries some risk. The Church asks each person to carefully weigh the risks in their particular circumstances, and to discuss them with a health professional and/or family member as appropriate.



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6) A mask is considered basic protection, both for yourself and others. We ask that those coming to the church wear a mask when in the presence of any other people. [If the mask is a problem for you, it may be removed when you are in the pew but is to be put back in place before moving]. Gloves and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be considered depending on your circumstances.

7) Frequent hand washing and appropriate use of hand sanitizers are essential. Many people carry hand sanitizer with them. The church does not have access to a lot of hand sanitizer.

8) Missalettes and hymnals will not be in the pews. Realize that a book cannot be readily disinfected. Use of books is always optional, however at this time it is a possible risk. It seems the virus does not live long on books, so we will implement a system where a book is only used one time a day in the future if necessary.

9) When you come into the church be attentive to social distancing and refrain from gathering in the foyer. If you want to visit with someone, please do so away from the building in the open air.

10) Ushers will seat people in every other row. Please follow their instructions.

11) The collection will be taken up after Holy Mass in the Narthex to avoid people having to handle money before reception of the Eucharist.

12) At the distribution of Holy Communion, please come forward in single file while wearing your mask and observing social distancing. Move forward to receive Communion; remove or lower your mask being careful not to touch your face and consume the Host. Step to the side and put your mask back on, then return to your pew. (The kneeler will not be present as it provides a surface for the ready transmission of germs.) Listen for any additional instructions at Mass.

13) When the Mass ends please wait in place, the ushers will direct the people to leave by pew. Doors should be propped open if logistics and weather allows to minimize people contacting the door hardware.

14) When leaving the church please clear the pew.

15) After Mass, avoid gathering in the foyer, please move away from the building into an open air spot before engaging people in conversation.

16) Remember, only by ongoing effort do we avoid another outbreak of the pandemic. We really want to be able to continue safely having Masses with people freely attending.



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BASIC COVID-19 INFORMATION

NOTE:

Persons who have had any symptoms **MUST NOT** come to Mass until: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Who are Vulnerable Individuals?

1. Those who are 65 or older.
2. Individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

What are the Symptoms of COVID-19?

Persons with any of the symptoms **MUST** remain at home:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

Regular Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 9:00am

12:00pm (Spanish)

5:30pm (Bilingual)

First Friday additional Mass at 7:00pm(bilingual) followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction

First Saturday Mass at 9:00am



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Weekday Mass Schedule (in the Main Church)

Monday: 12:10pm

Tuesday: 6:00pm

Wednesday: 12:10pm

Thursday: 8:00am & 8:00pm(bilingual)

Friday: 8:00am

Confession Schedule:

Monday: 11:00am

Tuesday: 4:30pm

Wednesday: 11:00am

Thursday: 7:00pm

Friday: 8:30am

Saturday: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

First Saturday Confession 7:45am to 8:45am

Baptisms, weddings and quinceañeras please contact the church office at 903-784-1000.

Guidelines are subject to change.

Thanks so much for your cooperation in all these measures. I know we all look forward to the day when we all may freely attend Mass without all these precautions being necessary.