

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST PARISH PLAN FOR OPENING FOR PENTECOST

We welcome our parishioners back for public worship beginning Pentecost Sunday (May 30th – 31st). It is a gift to receive the sacraments.

Through the Diocesan Guidelines, the Center for Disease Control, for public safety, the common good and with a delicate balance, St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Oro Valley, Arizona will be observing the following guidelines. Please note that guidelines can be changed at any time to ensure reasonable safety of our parishioners, ministers and priests.

- *The Sunday Mass obligation is suspended indefinitely for all persons living in or visiting in the Tucson Diocese.*
- *Vulnerable parishioners (age 65+ or with a chronic health condition) are strongly urged to remain at home. Likewise, those feeling ill in any way are advised in the strongest sense to remain home and view the Mass online and make an Act of Spiritual Communion.*
- *Please be aware that there is an inherent risk, regardless of age or health in attending any public event, including religious service. While we strive to reduce risks, a parishioner's presence at Mass constitutes their understanding and acceptance of this essential level of risk.*
- *The use of masks by parishioners is highly encouraged. This is a sign of our desire to do our part in helping to prevent others from potential contagion. In the words of Bishop Weisenburger, "The use of a mask is an especially strong sign of your support for your priests and ministers." Please be respectful of closed areas.*
- *There will be no collections taken in the pew. There will be an usher present at the beginning and end of Mass with a collection basket. Please drop your donation into the basket without touching the basket.*
- *We will refrain from the use of Holy Water, Missalettes and hymnals. At this time there will be no congregational singing during Mass because of fears that it will spread the virus.*
- *During the Our Father, there will be no holding of hands outside of your family, and likewise the Sign of Peace outside of your family should be shared without human touch, such as a small bow or wave.*
- *Holy Communion will be distributed ONLY in the hand after the final blessing by ministers behind a plastic protective shield. There will be no distribution of the Chalice. We will be following social distancing guidelines while in line for Communion. At the conclusion of Mass please exit directly to your vehicles.*
- *Masks will be required for all Eucharistic Ministers and sanitizing of hands before, during and after Communion.*
- *Drive-Thru confessions will be offered on Saturday at 3:30 pm in the Church parking lot.*
- *The Church will be closed Tuesday through Thursday to allow any potential contagion left behind on surfaces to die.*
- *Mass Times starting on Pentecost are as follows:*
 - **Friday: 8 am**
 - **Saturday: 8 am, 5 pm**
 - **Sunday: 7 am, 9 am, 11 am**
 - **Monday: 8 am**

We are grateful for and thank everyone for their patience, prayers, and cooperation during this most unusual time.

God Bless,

Fr. John P. Arnold, Pastor
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish
Oro Valley, Arizona