

St. Jude Catholic Church

Guidelines for Returning to Mass

St. Jude Catholic Church will resume public Mass the weekend of May 23 & 24. **In order for everyone to worship safely, it is important for all of us to read and follow the following guidelines to protect the health of our parish family.**

- **If you are sick or your health makes you vulnerable, we ask that you please stay home and participate in a virtual Mass.** Bishop Talley has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through June 30, 2020. We will continue to record Mass and post it on the church Facebook and web page.
- **Everyone must maintain 6-foot social distancing at all times. Families who live together may sit together but must maintain social distance from others in the church.**
- **It is mandatory that all parishioners wear face masks at all times while attending Mass.** You are encouraged to bring your own mask, but the church will have a limited supply for those who need one.
- Upon arrival at the church, please only use the social hall door and be seated observing 6-foot social distancing requirements. The church will open 30 minutes prior to Mass. **We are required to limit attendance to 50% of the church capacity. Ushers will help monitor attendance. Once capacity is reached, we will not be permitted to admit anyone else to the church.**
- There will be no Rosary or confessions before Mass. Confessions are by appointment; see below.
- Singing can spread the virus even more than talking. There will be no singing during Mass; all music will be instrumental, and Mass parts will be spoken.
- No baskets will be passed during Mass. Please place your offering in the baskets in the back of church as you leave. Thank you for your support!
- **For the health of everyone attending, we are encouraging everyone to receive communion only in the hand.** There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood. Additionally, there will be no use of Holy Water, no holding hands during the Lord's Prayer, and no shaking hands during the Sign of Peace.
- Confessions will be by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Please contact the church office at 731-587-9777 or office@stjudemartin.org at least one day in advance to make an appointment.
- There can be no social gatherings of any kind outside of Mass until further notice. This includes no donuts.
- After each Mass, we will need volunteers to help clean and disinfect the church, bathrooms, and all high-touch surfaces. Volunteers must wear masks during cleaning. The church will have gloves and cleaning supplies available.

We must all work together to protect the health of our sisters and brothers and prevent the spread of the virus. It is therefore very important that we all follow these guidelines in order for us to safely return to public Mass.