



Returning to Mass

PARISHIONER SUMMARY FOR RETURNING TO MASS

St. Mary Church has reopened for the celebration of Mass following our Sunday and weekday schedule: Saturday Vigil at 4:30 pm, Sunday at 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am and 5:30 pm. Mass on Monday – Saturday is at 8:30 am. Our Sunday Masses have flowed smoothly with greeters welcoming people and assisting them with finding a seat if necessary. Parishioners continue to sit in every other pew with careful attention to six-feet of social distancing between households.

We want to ensure the health and safety of all our parishioners and are ready to welcome you back to Mass whenever you feel comfortable and ready. St. Mary's will continue to record the Sunday Mass each week. It can be viewed on Sunday at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm on Shrewsbury Cable Channel 28. Mass will also be posted at 8:00 am on the St. Mary's Facebook page (@stmarysshrewsburyma) and on the parish website (www.stmarysparish.org). We will also continue to livestream the 8:30 am daily Mass on the St. Mary's Facebook page.

Before you return to Mass, please familiarize yourselves with the detailed procedures which can be found on the parish website at www.stmarysparish.org. Here is a summary:

SHOULD I COME TO MASS?

The suspension of the Sunday obligation to attend Mass will remain in force until December 31. Older adults and those with underlying health conditions should continue to avoid public assemblies and remain at home. Persons who are feeling sick should not attend Mass in person.

CAPACITY AND SEATING FOR MASS

During this first phase of reopening our Masses at St. Mary Church will be limited to approximately 125 people. This is the estimated number of people who can be seated in the church while maintaining six feet of distance from others. Please be seated in every other pew with careful attention to six-feet of distance between households.

ARRIVING FOR MASS

Face coverings/masks are required in the parking lot and during Mass for adults and children older than five years. Parishioners may enter the church through the Main Street doors or side doors. Parish volunteers will greet you and assist you in finding a seat if necessary.

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR MASS

- Please keep your face covering/mask on for the duration of Mass.
- There will be limited congregational singing during the Mass.
- The collection basket will not be passed. Instead, you may place your weekly offering in the basket as you enter/exit the church. We strongly encourage online giving through [WeShare](#) found on our parish website.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The use of personal hand sanitizer before communion is strongly encouraged. Communion will be distributed at the regular time with those seated on the right side of the church coming forward first and then followed by those who are seated on the left side. Masks should be worn while in the communion line. Please remain six feet behind the person in front of you.

EXITING THE CHURCH

Please exit the church by the same door through which you entered. After leaving the church, please do not congregate in the hallways, vestibule or outside, but head directly to your vehicle.