

Update of Guidelines for the Return to Mass

Start of Phase ‘C’

12 June 2020

Starting on **Sunday, 14 June 2020, face masks will be optional at Sunday Masses** at Sacred Heart Parish in Remington. We will not restart regular weekday Masses at this time, however, **we will have a public Mass on Friday 19 June 2020 at 7pm EST/EDT for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, the patronal feast of our parish.

Bishop Doherty has updated his guidelines for returning to public Masses in our diocese. You can read the entire updated decree on the Diocesan website at:

<https://dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>

The purpose of the plan is to mitigate the risk of exposure to the virus. We will use cleaners to sterilize frequently touched surfaces in the church, but the church building is not a sterile facility and we cannot completely eliminate all risk.

Here is my summary of things that I think you should know before coming to Mass during phase ‘C’:

1. The bishop has extended the **dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass** until 15 August 2020. Therefore, no one should feel required to go to Mass during this phase. In particular, those who are experiencing any sickness, those whose health is in some way compromised, those who are fearful of the possibility of infection of COVID-19, and those over the age of 65 should consider staying home.
2. The Saturday 5pm Mass will be **designated specifically for the vulnerable** to protect them from unnecessary interaction with the non-vulnerable population, if they insist on coming to Mass despite the general dispensation.
 - A. The **Saturday 5pm Mass will continue to follow the Phase ‘B’ guidelines, so masks will still be required** at this Mass.
 - B. There will be no Altar Servers or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. There will be one reader at Mass.
3. The **7pm Mass on 19 June for the Sacred Heart of Jesus will follow Phase ‘B’ guidelines** and so will be like the Saturday night Mass. **Masks will be required.**
4. At the **Sunday 8:30am Mass, face masks will be optional.**

A. There will be no Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. There will be one reader at Mass and we may have up to 3 volunteer altar servers. Readers and Altar Servers will not wear masks while performing their functions during Mass.

B. I will process in at the beginning of Mass along with any Altar Servers.

5. Music at all Masses:

A. There will be **no congregational singing** at Mass and all hymnals and missalettes will be removed from the pews. However, we may have instrumental music at Mass beginning on 20 June 2020.

6. Social Distancing at all Masses:

A. Each household must be seated at least 6 feet away from any other household.

B. There will be ushers who will ensure this at each Mass

C. Some pews may need to be left empty in order to meet the 6 foot requirement.

D. It may be necessary to turn people away if there is no where to seat more households with the required social distancing. If this occurs, I will take this into consideration when planing for future weeks.

7. Doors at all Masses:

A. The main doors will be left open at the beginning and end of Mass so that no one has to touch the doors.

B. The side door will be locked, but the elevator will be unlocked and available.

8. **Cleaning** will take place between Masses, and we will follow the guidelines of the bishop and the State of Indiana and the CDC.

9. Holy Communion at all Masses:

A. There will be no distribution of Holy Communion during Mass.

B. Distribution will occur at the **end of Mass**.

C. I will wear a mask, but no gloves during distribution and I will wash my hands before beginning.

D. Please remove your face mask before receiving the Holy Eucharist.

E. I will distribute from the back of the Church and I will ask you to come forward starting with those in the back. After receiving Holy Communion, you are to exit the building.

F. If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion, you may leave at any time through the side door or wait until your row goes forward and then exit without receiving.

G. All will need to do their best to maintain social distancing while standing in line and while exiting the building.

- H. There will be markers on the floor of the main aisle to indicate a 6 foot distance.
10. There will be no **Collection** during Mass, but there will be a basket at the end of Mass, where you can drop your offering.
 11. I am in the process right now of scheduling **RCIA, First Communion, and Confirmation**. I plan to schedule RCIA as soon as possible and First Communion and Confirmation will be scheduled sometime after July 4, under Phase 'D'.
 12. There will be printed **bulletins** which you can pick up on your way out of the building at the end of Mass. The bulletins will always be available on the website, if you prefer not to pick them up at the Church.
 13. **Phase 'D' will begin on July 4.**