

Statement on Reopening our Parish for Public Worship

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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Statement from Fr. Edward Lucero on: Reopening our Parish for Public Worship Protocol Implementation at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (October 10, 2020)

Dear St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishioners:

The Diocese of Tucson is entering Phase II for parishes, and we have guidelines from the Diocese of Tucson to implement this next phase. Please be mindful these guidelines are designed for the well-being of all us during this pandemic. Please note the following:

It is important that each of us acknowledge the inherent risk, regardless of age or health, in attending any public event. This includes religious services.

- **While we are working to reduce the risk, there are no risk-free situations or guarantees.**
- **Your decision to be present at any public event, including those celebrated at SEAS, constitutes your understanding and acceptance of this essential level of risk so it should not be taken lightly**

Liturgy

- **The Sunday Mass obligation has been suspended indefinitely for ALL Catholics living in or visiting the Tucson Diocese.**
- There is only one entrance into the church and that is through the main doors
 - All exits will remain open
- No one is required to return to church to attend in-person Masses, at this time.
- Our Sunday Mass schedule is: **Fridays 5:00 PM, Saturdays 10 AM and 5:00 PM, Sundays 7:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish) and 5PM**
 - **All masses are in the main church**
- The parish will continue to offer Sunday video masses each week and daily mass videos (Monday thru Friday). Please see parish website for the latest video mass: www.seastucson.org or the parish YouTube channel (SEAS Tucson)
- Daily Mass will return Monday thru Friday at 8:15 AM (Main Church) on October 12, 2020
- There are no hymnals, prayer cards or other items in the pews at this time, Congregational singing, as well as choir singing, remains prohibited
- Funerals and weddings will follow the same protocols as Sunday Masses with seating capacity and music

Common Good

- **Individuals who are strongly urged to remain at home and not come onto church premises include:**
 - Those who are age 65 or older
 - Those with a chronic health condition, regardless of their age
 - Anyone feeling ill in any way is urged, in the strongest sense, to remain home and **NOT** risk accidental harm to the community gathered at the church or other public places.
 - Ministers over the age of 65 and with chronic health problems are to refrain from public ministry

What to Expect During In-Person Mass

Seating

- **The capacity of the church is limited to 33%, pews are roped off to ensure proper social distance**
 - Please respect any sign posted at the church entrance indicating the Church is Full and that you need to return for a later-scheduled mass.
 - Ushers will post of sign at the entrance of the church when “Full” (reached 33% capacity)

Holy Communion

- Holy Communion will be distributed during mass as normal and give only in the hand.
- Social distancing protocols should be followed (6ft) for those waiting to receive Holy Communion.
- The Blood of Christ (Chalices) has been suspended
- Extraordinary ministers of Communion must use hand sanitizer before distributing Holy Communion and after
 - Face masks must be used while distributing Holy Communion
- For those who watch the Mass online Holy Communion will be distributed at **8:00AM to 8:30AM** and **12 Noon to 12:30PM** at the main doors of the Church

Confession

- At this time we will continue outside South Side of the Church from 8AM to 9AM, Saturday mornings.

Increased Cleanliness & Safety Methods

- After each Mass the church will be cleaned using CDC approved disinfectants and cleaning agents
- Cleaning will follow the Diocese of Tucson Maintenance guidelines for the church and bathrooms

No-Touch and Social Distancing Protocols

- The use of Holy Water fonts has been suspended.
- The traditional practice of “passing the basket” from person-to-person has been suspended and replaced with no-touch, clearly marked collection boxes located near each church exits
- Our church entrance doors will be propped open to help our parishioners avoid unnecessary contact, upon entering and leaving the church.

Other Points

1. The use of face masks for all those age six and older is mandatory.
2. Parish bulletins when available will be for pick up only at the exit doors
3. Parish meetings should continue through technology. However, we may have in person meetings if the participants are not “at risk” per CDC guidelines.
 - a. In person meetings **must follow** social distancing protocols and the masks. Meeting rooms must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
4. Fund raising activities are case by case
 - a. Food fund raising activities are not permitted in this phase
5. Fiestas and Social gatherings are not allowed in this phase.

Once again use parish website for the latest information regarding any possible changes.

God Bless,

Fr. Edward Lucero
Pastor

New Mass Times (All Sunday Liturgies)

Friday 5PM

Saturday 10AM and 5PM

Sunday: 7AM, 10AM, 1PM (Spanish) and 5PM

Daily Mass: Monday thru Friday at 8:15AM, Main Church