

Sacred Heart Parish
Aberdeen, South Dakota
Plan to resume public Masses

Effective Saturday, May 16 2020

As stated in the Bishop's guidelines, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sunday remains in effect, this will continue until further notice. While we eagerly await your return, the following should prudently please STAY HOME from public mass:

- If you, or anyone in your household, is ill.
- If you are at risk due to age or other conditions that weaken you.
- If you care for those at risk.
- If you feel uncomfortable about attending or being in public settings during this time.
- If you are unable, or unwilling to follow the guidelines outlined here.

If you feel unsafe, you should feel no guilt or shame in staying home. Similarly, you should feel a freedom to permit others who are comfortable attending to do so.

The measures outlined below apply to all liturgical events at Sacred Heart. While we are eager to reopen our Parish, should the local caseload of Covid-19 spike we may have to take additional precautions, which may include returning to no public liturgies.

1. Schedule

- a. **Public Weekend liturgies** will resume the normal schedule of Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30am beginning the weekend of May 16/17. The 11:30am mass will also continue to be live-streamed.
- b. **Public Daily liturgies** will resume the normal schedule (5:30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30am on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 8:15am on Saturdays) beginning on Saturday, May 16th. There will be no Wednesday 12:10pm daily mass until the next school year. Daily masses will no longer be live-streamed.
- c. **Confessions** will resume the normal schedule of ½ hour before each daily mass for 20 minutes, as well as Saturdays from 3:30-4:30pm beginning Saturday, May 16th. Confessions will continue to be held in the sacristy and side chapel to allow for adequate distancing, as well as only being available behind a screen.
- d. **The Parish Office** will resume being open to the public during our normal hours (M-Th 8:30am-4:30pm, Fri 8:30am-12:30pm) on Monday, May 18th.

2. Capacity and Physical Distancing

- a. 6 feet of distance is to be maintained between family units at all times on Church property.
- b. To provide this distance in the Church we will be using every other pew. Pews that are roped off are not to be used.

- c. Multiple family units may sit in one pew as long as there is 6 feet of separation between them. For reference each full sized pew in the Church is 16 feet long (2 – 8 foot long sections with the divider between).
- d. Under these restrictions our max capacity in the Church is around 225 persons, depending on family sizes attending each mass.
- e. When the Church has reached its capacity additional persons will be directed to the social hall for overflow seating (or they may choose to return at a different mass time).

3. Personal hygiene

- a. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask (you must bring your own), covering the nose and mouth while in the building.
- b. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to sanitize their hands before entering and upon leaving the building. Given the supply shortage of hand sanitizer we encourage parishioners to bring and use their own supply of sanitizer. The Church will provide stations for hand sanitizing until our supply runs out.
- c. The Holy Water stoups at the entrances will remain empty.
- d. Stations will be set up throughout the Church for families to disinfect their own pew (similar to how you would disinfect your own cart at the grocery store).
- e. Door handles and other commonly touched surfaces will be wiped down with appropriate disinfecting agents after each liturgy ends and before the next one may begin.

4. Liturgical changes

- a. Please arrive to Church no earlier than 20 minutes before the beginning of mass. Please do not come late!
- b. All persons are to enter the Church from the south entrance off of 3rd Avenue and follow guidance from the hosts as to where to sit. Please be advised that chances are high you will not be able to sit in your normal spot.
- c. Pew missals will be removed from the main Church. Hymns will be published in the bulletin each week and be made available as people enter the Church.
- d. Gift bears and altar servers will not be used at this time.
- e. Offertory baskets will not be passed; a basket for your donations will be placed inside the Nave at each entrance. Thank you for your continued support.
- f. There will be no sign of peace.
- g. Communion will be distributed to the faithful immediately **after** mass has concluded.
- h. At communion time those who are both predisposed and wish to receive the Eucharist will follow the priest's and host's direction as to reception. We will distribute Communion in sections of the Church so as to maintain single file line spacing. Care should be made to maintain 6 foot spacing between families while in line.
- i. After reception families may choose to return to their pew to pray or simply leave the Church. Care should be made to maintain 6 foot spacing between families while leaving the building.
- j. Communion will continue to be offered only under one species. Those who have a gluten intolerance and wish to receive the precious blood of Christ

should wait until the end. Gluten intolerant communicants should notify the priest prior to mass of their presence.

- k. Communicants should receive on the hand only and are encouraged to sanitize their hands prior to reception using their own supply of hand sanitizer.
- l. Communicants should remove face masks and gloves before coming forward to receive Communion.
- m. No social gatherings will occur within the building or on Church property following liturgies.

5. Mass Teams

- a. To accomplish the above stated guidelines we will need to form 2 sets of teams for each weekend liturgy. For public masses to be possible during these times IT IS CRITICAL that parishioners consider consistently volunteering on these teams. To be a part of these teams please contact the parish office at 605-225-7065 or sacredheartaberdeem@gmail.com.
 - i. The HOST TEAM will assist in directing people to the appropriate pews, seating people in the social hall when the Church is full, and sanitizing pew spaces for those who need help. They will also help to guide the flow of the communion line and direct people as they leave the Church building. We estimate 6 people are needed **per mass**.
 - ii. The CLEANING TEAM will assist in the cleaning efforts between masses, including door handles and commonly touched surfaces. We estimate 6 people are needed **per mass**.
- b. Liturgical roles will NOT be scheduled at this time so as not to put undue pressure on parishioners who wish to stay home from mass. Each mass will require 1 lector – please contact the parish office if you are planning to attend mass and willing to serve in this capacity.

