

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, LANESVILLE, INC.



2500 St. Mary's Drive
Lanesville, Indiana 47136
Parish Office: 812-952-2853

RE-OPENING CHURCH & MASSES TO OUR PARISHIONERS

Updated on August 25, 2020

Each weekday the church will be open for daily Mass and private prayer from 7:30am – 9:30 am.

- Daily Mass schedule is Tuesday – Friday at 8:00 am.
- Please enter by the side or front entrance of the Church.
- Wearing a face covering is required by state order.
- Upon entry and exit please use hand sanitizer.
- Occupants not to exceed 86 persons and social distancing (6 ft.), to be maintained.
- Sit only in pews permitted for Sunday Mass (see tape on pew).
- St. Mary Parish Life Center is open to allow access to public restrooms.

Weekend Mass schedule for St. Mary.

- Live Stream of the 8:00 am Mass will continue.
- Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:30 pm, Sunday at 8:00 am, and 10:30 am.
- The 8:00 am Sunday Mass will continue to be Live Streamed on St. Mary Facebook, but can also be viewed at a later time.

These procedures will be reevaluated weekly. If you would like to attend Mass, please read through the details below. Thank you for your patience and compliance.

Please realize that while we are excited to be returning to public liturgy, COVID19 is still with us. As such, attending Mass will bring with it certain risks. We will try to moderate those risks by using safety protocols. However, Archbishop Thompson has maintained the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass (in person) through November 1, 2020, and live streaming of weekend Masses will continue. Furthermore, those who are 65 and over or those with high-risk health conditions are encouraged to stay home. This is the population that is most vulnerable to the Coronavirus. Of course, those who are asymptotic or have tested positive for COVID19 should not enter a church until released to do so by their health care professional.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

ATTENDANCE CAPACITY & SEATING

- For now, Masses will be limited to 30% capacity across the Archdiocese.
- For St. Mary, this equates to 86 in our main sanctuary per Mass.
- Choir loft, Confessional and Usher pews are open to only to staff and volunteers at Mass.
- St. Mary Parish Life Center is open to allow access to public restrooms.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- To safeguard the health of everyone, please complete a COVID19 self-monitoring checklist. If you are sick or showing signs of any symptoms related to COVID19, please remain at home.
- The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered “at risk” by the CDC (65-years and over and those with high-risk health conditions) to remain at home and not attend Mass in person for their own safety.
- Upon entry and exit sanitize your hands.
- Wearing a face covering is required by state order.
- You may bring your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Holy Communion.
- Please do not bring items that contain bleach into the sanctuary as this will damage the pews.

MASS ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- Entry is permitted through the front door entrance of the Church. The side door entrance is open for Parishioners who need access to the ramp.
- Masks and face coverings are required during Mass or any indoor space.
- Arrive 15-20 minutes before Mass begins. Please observe the 6 foot social distancing.
- The entrance doors of the church will open 30 minutes prior to Mass start.
- Ushers (from the Parish Staff and Volunteers) will seat your household.
- Please wait for the Usher to escort you to a pew.
- The church will be seated to fill the open pews from front to back.
- Every other pew will be closed and marked by tape on the pew.
- You may be sharing a pew with another household, but 6 feet social distance is required between the households.
- There will be no seating in the choir loft or Usher pews.
- St. Mary Parish Life Center is open to allow access to public restrooms.
- The holy water fonts remain empty.
- If we reach 30% Capacity for a given Mass, no more congregants will be granted entry. No one wants to ‘deny’ you access to the Mass; however, this is to accommodate per CDC, Indiana State, and Archdiocesan guidelines for public assembly. Please remain respectful with those tasked with ushering.

MASS PROCEDURES

- There will be no altar servers, choirs, lay sacristans, or extraordinary ministers.
- Pre-Identified Scheduled Persons will serve as ushers until further notice.
- No entrance or exit Procession, Presentation of Gifts, or Offertory will take place
- Masks and face coverings are required during Mass or any indoor space.
- No holding hands during the *Lord’s Prayer*.
- No physical contact during the *Sign of Peace*.

HOLY COMMUNION & MASS DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

- Holy Communion will be distributed after the final Mass blessing by Deacon Rick Cooper only.
- Holy Communion will be distributed only by the Host – the Body of Christ.
- The Precious Blood will **not** be offered to the congregation. As Catholics, we believe that Christ is fully present Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity even when we only receive either the Body or Blood of Christ at Mass.
- You are also not required to receive each time you attend Mass. You may continue with ‘Spiritual Communion’ if you prefer.
- Following the Archdiocese of Indianapolis guidelines, Archbishop Thompson recommends Holy Communion be received in the hands and not on the tongue (for the time being) to keep Deacon Rick and Parishioners safe.
- Use of personal hand sanitizer before Holy Communion is strongly encouraged.
- There will be a single Holy Communion line in the center main aisle.
- Ushers will dismiss each pew front to back.
- No blessing of non-Communicants will be offered by directive of the Archdiocese (for now).

HOLY COMMUNION & MASS PROCESSION

- After the final Mass blessing, parishioners should remain in their pew. Ushers will dismiss each pew in an orderly fashion starting in the front of the church and then moving back.
- You must exit your pew when prompted. Private prayer will not be available after Masses to allow the church to be cleaned properly for the next Mass.
- There will be a single Holy Communion-dismissal line in the center main aisle.
- After receiving Holy Communion, you may venerate in front of the processional cross while consuming Holy Communion, then you will proceed to the side door to exit church.

CHURCH CLEANING PROCEDURES

- St. Mary will continue to implement cleanliness and sanitization practices, including cleaning pews in between every Mass.
- Disinfecting door handles and other frequently touched surfaces occur throughout the day.
- Parish staff and Ushers will be required to wear face masks, wash hands, and self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms.

You are reminded to follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health.

The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered “at risk” by the CDC (65-years and over or those with high-risk health conditions) not attend Mass in person for their own safety. If you fall into an “at risk” category, please stay home and join us by Live Stream.

If you test positive with COVID-19 within 14 days of Mass attendance, please notify the parish immediately at 812-952-2853.

TITHING AND ONLINE BANKING

- You will be able to place your weekly gift in a basket as you exit the church.
- We would like to encourage you to mail or set up bill pay through your financial institution. This type of transaction is available to any parishioner who uses online banking, but many are unaware they can do this. If you use online banking you can begin today and your bank will mail your tithing directly to St. Mary. No more searching for your envelope, stopping for cash, or writing a check. If you do not currently use online banking, and you would like to know more about setting it up, inquire with your financial institution for further instructions.

PARISH OFFICE

The office will continue to remain closed to the public until further notice. Staff will continue to conduct normal business while working remotely from home when possible, with some limited entry into the office as needed. Please call or email if you need an appointment and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Fr. Bob will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation under the picnic pavilion each Saturday at 4:30 pm. Weather permitting.

Baptisms of Infants: St. Mary is scheduling the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Please limit participants to immediate family. Of course, if there is danger of death, contact Fr. Bob immediately.

Anointing of the Sick: Holy Communion for the Sick and viaticum for the dying will be distributed. Priests will continue to minister to the sick where they are permitted.

Funerals: Funeral Mass in the church is allowed, not to exceed 86 and no comfort meal will be offered.