

RECONNECT

What To Expect When Public Mass is Celebrated Again

Having now entered into a new phase of the COVID 19 pandemic, while honoring Governor Mike DeWine's "Stay Safe Ohio" order, the Catholic Bishops have approved the opening of the Celebration of Mass on Pentecost Weekend (May 30 and 31). I will celebrate Mass at 4PM on Saturday May 30 and at 8am and 10 am on Sunday May 31st. I have temporarily added an extra Mass at 8am on Sunday Mornings so that we do not exceed 50% of fire code regulations per the "Stay Safe Ohio" order. The "Stay Safe Ohio" order requires that we put a limit on the number of persons attending Mass so that we can create a healthy environment for the safety of all present.

In order to provide for the common good, health, safety and spiritual well-being of all, certain guidelines and restrictions will be implemented for the celebration of Mass. I would now like to share with you the guidelines and restrictions our St. Mary's Community:

WHO should attend a limited public Mass in person?

The faithful of the Diocese of Toledo continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice. It is important to note that those who are at greater risk (**elderly, sick, those with pre-existing conditions**) should **refrain** from coming to Sunday Mass until such time as they feel comfortable and confident to do so.

- Please note that **Sunday Masses will still be "live-steamed" from St. Gerard's Parish on Saturday evenings at 5 PM and Sunday mornings at 8:30 am and 11 am.**

WHEN can I go to a limited public Mass?

I will begin celebrating weekday Mass every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at **9 am** beginning **June 1st**. Those who do not feel comfortable or confident in being with larger numbers of persons at Sunday Mass may want to consider coming to the celebration of a week day Mass and receive Holy Eucharist. I will celebrate Mass at **4PM on Saturday May 30 and at 8am and 10 am on Sunday May 31st**. I have temporarily added an extra Mass at **8am** on Sunday Mornings

WHAT restrictions will there be?

Every effort possible will be implemented to ensure the appropriate social distancing before, during and after celebration of Mass. Please follow the instructions of our Ushers and Greeters when attending Mass. Please do **not congregate** in large groups in the narthex to talk with each other and shake hands, hug etc. Rather please enter Church and you will be directed to a seating place for the celebration of Mass.

Families/household members who live together can sit together but **must be spaced at least six feet** away from other worshippers. This means certain pews will be blocked off to ensure the proper social distancing space. Please respect the need for keeping our social distancing protocol.

Face masks are encouraged and may be worn by worshippers (except for children 2 and under) if you choose to do so. I also highly encourage everyone to bring your **own hand sanitizer** and or **sanitizing wipes** so we can wipe down the pews.

Social gatherings before or after Mass will **not** be allowed. (For example: receptions, coffee and doughnuts, etc.)

Particular Liturgical Matters

Processions through the congregation at the beginning and end of Mass will be **discontinued** during this time.

The Offertory Procession **is suspended. No collection will be taken up during Mass.** However a Collection Basket will be placed in Church and we encourage you to place your “offering” as you enter the Church and go to your pew.

The Sign of Peace **is suspended** and no Handholding during the Lord’s Prayer.

Distribution of Holy Communion will **only** be the Blessed Bread as the distribution of the Precious Blood from the chalice **is suspended. The reception of Holy Communion is by hand only.** The **Sacred Host will be placed in your hand without any physical contact. Ushers will direct you when and how to proceed to receive the Eucharist while maintaining social distancing (one pew at a time.)** If you are apprehensive or anxious about receiving the Eucharist you may refrain and you can make a “spiritual communion.”

New Norms for Public Spaces

Baptismal font and holy water fonts will be empty. Water for Baptisms will only be placed when baptism takes place.

Pew, chairs, door handles will be sanitized after each Mass.

Hymnals and missalettes will be **removed** and stored away for the duration of the pandemic. A Cantor will lead the singing at Mass.

Bulletins will remain digital and can be found on line on our [Parish website](#)

We all must make every effort to practice good hygiene practices for the well-being of all.

With expectant hope we look forward to the day when we can gather as a Family and praise our God in Eucharistic Worship. I kindly ask that you cooperate with these guidelines out of love and respect for each other as we continue to keep our Community **Safe and Healthy. Please be patient as we put these new Liturgical norms into practice as we reopen our Parish Life.**

Bishop Daniel Thomas encourages us all to pray our Diocesan Novena to the Holy Spirit as we prepare to open our Church on Pentecost. The Novena begins on **Friday May 22 and concludes on Saturday May 30.** The link to the Novena may be found on our [Diocesan webpage](#).