



Saint John Catholic Church

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May 14, 2020
Feast of St. Matthias

Dear Parishioners of St. John,

Before the policies for St. John are laid out, I would like to highlight the fact that Bishop Brennan has continued the dispensation of the Sunday obligation until September 13, 2020. This is especially important for anyone who is “high risk” over age 70 or who has serious health conditions or is suffering with Covid-19. Though we wish that all could gather with us for the Eucharist, we cannot guarantee complete safety at this time.

Please note we have joined with a company called Tithe.ly for online giving. There is a give button on the church website and this company has an app for smart phones. This is a very convenient way to give to the church and does not require the use of an envelope.

We will continue live streaming the Mass for those who have access to a smart phone or computer for those who do not feel safe in attending Mass.

Following are the policies that are being put in place and will be followed for those who wish to avail themselves of sacraments at St. John.

Jesus commands us to love one another. During this pandemic we must translate this command to deal with the use of a mask or face covering. The love we need to share with each other is the use of a mask or face covering out of respect and love for the other person. This should be common sense but as noted the guidelines makes it clear, at church a mask or face covering is required. These instructions will remain in place until further notice from the bishop's office.

Your help is needed:

Special Request to those who are ‘high risk’. Please call the office after receiving this letter and guidelines. We need to know if you would be interested a Mass limited to people with high risk issues on another day of the week. Remember the Bishop has lifted the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until September 13, 2020. This Mass would still follow all the guidelines for a Sunday Mass even though on a different day.

Fr. Steve

Reconciliation (Confession):

Starting Saturday, May 16-

- Reconciliation will be available from 3pm until 4 pm every Saturday. Reconciliation will be celebrated in the Office Conference Room, please enter through the outside door.
- Washed your hands before coming
- You are to have a mask on,
- Please bring and use hand sanitizer as you enter the Conference Room. There is a screen inside the door for anonymous Reconciliation or step to your left for face to face.
- You will remain standing. Due to the situation, there will not be time for any type of counselling.

Daily Mass:

- Starting Tuesday, May 19, we will be having public attendance at the Mass. Currently the daily Masses are being celebrated at 9 am and we will stay with that start time. The live streaming of the daily Masses will continue.

Daily Mass is Tuesday through Friday.

- To attend Mass-
 - one must wear a mask (we have some available) or some type of face covering,
 - please check your temperature if 100.4 or higher do not come,
 - wash your hands before leaving home and use hand sanitizer before entering the chapel.
- Each person must remain six (6) foot from everyone else,
 - if there is a large attendance, we will move Mass to the main church.
 - a. There will not be any missalettes or music books,
 - b. If you have a smart phone, please download 'I Breviary' and use it for Mass
- It is strongly recommended that **Communion in the hand be the norm**,
- your mask is lowered as the person in front of you receives and replaced immediately after reception.
- No sign of peace, no loitering or congregating after Mass.

Sunday Mass:

- Starting Saturday, May 30, we will begin celebration of public Weekend Masses. Mass Times 5 pm Saturday, 8 am & 10 am Sunday. Sunday 10 am Mass will be live streamed.

- There will not be any missalettes, music sheets or other paper materials in the pews.
- If you have a smart phone, or tablet, please make sure you have Flocknote on the device and each weekend the readings and music will be downloaded from the parish.
 - a. Bring and use your device for Mass. If you wish to bring your own missal, that is allowed. If you do not have a smart phone or tablet, there will be a limited number of tablets available for use in the church.
- To attend Mass, before leaving home check your temperature, if 100.4 or higher stay home.
- Please use the bathroom before leaving, there will be **very limited** access to bathrooms in the parish hall.
 - a. Wash hands before leaving home.
 - b. Bring hand sanitizer with you in the car and use as you exit.
- Wearing a mask or some type of face covering is required in church by everyone over the age of two (2).
- Ushers will open the church doors for you, greetings are allowed but no long conversations.
- Within the church social distancing will be kept. Only every third pew will be in use; an usher will assist you if necessary.
 - a. If all pews are full, then please go to the hall for additional seating.
- Please avoid needlessly touching any surfaces.
- There will not be a collection or offertory procession, envelopes and other offering may be dropped in the baskets beside the Communion stations
- The Sign of Peace will not be a part of Mass for the current time.
- Ushers will assist you in lining up for Communion, two lines but spaced six (6) feet apart from other families
- Due to the nature of the barriers being used for Communion, **reception the Communion will be in the hand.**
 - a. As the person in front of you receives Communion, you will lower your face covering, step forward receive Communion,
 - b. step to the side, put the Eucharist in your mouth and replace your face covering.
 - c. The Eucharist will be brought to the hall of reception there.

- After Mass the ushers will dismiss people from the church,
 - a. please no loitering or congregating after Mass in the church or on church grounds.
 - b. We need the church cleared as soon as possible to begin sanitizing for the next service.

Odds and Ends:

- ❖ The celebration of Mass will seem a little different, fewer pauses for sacred silence, etc.
- ❖ Holy Water will not be available for making the sign of the cross (You can still get Holy Water to take home.
- ❖ No distribution of the Precious Blood.
- ❖ No Sign of Peace
- ❖ Limited Music and possible no singing by the congregation.
- ❖ Bulletins will be handed out at the end of Mass as people leave the church. Bulletin will also be available on the website, an on Flocknote.