



www.OLSSTX.org

May 22, 2020

To the Catholic Faithful of Our Lady, Star of the Sea Catholic Church, and its Mission Community of Laguna Heights:

Welcome Back!

It is with a joyful heart that I am announcing the public celebration of masses, and other liturgical celebration and devotions, at our home parish church, beginning on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Without a doubt these extraordinary circumstances have affected us all, in many ways. Still, we are grateful that we will be able to gather, once again, to render proper worship and adoration to God Almighty.

Therefore, in order to offer a safe and healthy environment to our community, as we celebrate our liturgical events in the church, **it is imperative that we understand, and comply with, the following regulations:**

1. **If you are sick**, or simply in a delicate health condition, stay home.
2. Everyone over the age of two, who enters the church, or its mission hall, **must properly wear a facemask.**
3. We are **required** to enforce the **six-foot social distancing** directive.
4. Holy Communion will be **given in the hand only.**
5. **Refrain from** handshakes, hugs, and kisses as a form of greetings and/or the sign of peace.
6. **Do not hold hands** when praying the “Our Father”.
7. **Be patient** as you proceed to be seated, and when you are directed to form a line for Holy Communion.

Remember that our Bishop has dispensed the faithful from the Sunday Mass obligations due to the pandemic. Furthermore, he has also given us the opportunity to attend any daily mass in lieu of the Sunday Mass obligations. In this way, any individual/family may plan to attend mass during the week and avoid the crowded weekends. Also, we will continue to livestream our daily mass celebration via Facebook, so that the faithful may participate from home.

Facemasks are required to enter the church/mission buildings. We will have disposable facemasks available for a small donation. Failure to comply will result in the entrance denial to

705 S Longoria St., Port Isabel, TX 78578  
Telephone (956) 943-1297; Fax (956) 943-1422  
Email: olss@cdob.org

the place of worship. Be aware that those of us in the sanctuary, which may include the Celebrant, Altar Servers, Choir members, Lectors, and EMCs, will be set aside from the rest of the community. We will only be wearing our facemasks when approaching the community for service (i.e. for the collection, and for Holy Communion).

Because of the “six-foot social distancing directive” the church capacity will be at less than fifty percent (50%). In fact, half of all the pews have been marked “unavailable for sitting”. For this reason, an usher will guide you to the next available pew. Please be patient as you wait to be seated.

We will continue to offer the Eucharist to those Catholics who are in a state of grace. However, please remember that Holy Communion will be given on the hand only, as per Bishop’s directives. In addition, ushers will guide you to form a single line in specified church areas. This will ensure that we follow the social distancing directives

Once the liturgical celebration has concluded, you will be instructed how to proceed to the various exits in an orderly fashion (i.e. by area, and by pews). Again, be patient as we comply with the social distancing directive.

We are all experiencing difficult circumstances under this pandemic. For this reason, please understand that what we are trying to do is a “work-in-progress”. As we proceed and learn from the challenges encountered daily, we will re-evaluate the procedures to improve the care of our faithful. Good deeds become virtues. Still, we can also learn from our mistakes, so that we will not commit them again.

The main reason we gather at the church is to render proper worship to God. We gather in his love, which is given to us in abundance, in the form of charity. Let us be charitable, prudent, and generous to each other. Better yet, let us apply the commandment of love our Lord Jesus Christ gave us: “Love one another...as I have loved you” (Jn 13:34-35).

In the name of all of us at Our Lady, Star of the Sea Catholic Church and its Mission Community of Laguna Heights, we welcome you back!

Respectfully, yours in Christ,

+Rev. Jesus “Jesse” Garza  
Pastor