

## **Phase Two Opening Protocols for Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church - Tucson- October 1st.**

- I. **General notice and welcome back message - Letter from Father Crino.**
- II. **There will be a Phased approach to the re-opening of the Church.**
  - a. The Tucson Diocese follows all recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and others with expertise in public health, as communicated through available sources on the national and local levels.
  - b. We will do everything reasonably possible to provide a safe and healthy environment. Our goal will be to protect all people. Still, most especially those from populations made more vulnerable due to age (over 65 years of age) or with a secondary chronic or underlying medical condition.
  - c. We are urging those in the vulnerable classification to stay home during this phase.
  - d. Those who are **feeling ill in any way** are urged, in the strongest sense, to remain at home.
  - e. Please be aware that there is an inherent risk of resuming any public activity, including the practice of our faith. A parishioner's presence at a public event constitutes his or her understanding and acceptance of this fundamental level of risk.
  - f. When on Church property, all persons must maintain social distancing protocols.
  - g. We are all aware that circumstances evolve quickly. The Diocese of Tucson will implement a re-opening of public liturgies in three phases over time. However, due to changing circumstances and the fluid nature of the pandemic, we are publishing Phase Two at this time, and it too may be updated depending on developing circumstances.
- III. **We will be initiating Phase Two of the phased approach, outlined in this document**
  - a. The Diocese of Tucson will express its unity in the faith by following the same restrictions for all Catholic parishes and entities throughout the Diocese.
  - b. A "Church Full" sign will be posted at the church doors if we fill with people up to the limit of safe social distancing.
  - c. Please make use of a **mask**. The use of a face mask is a sign of our desire to do our part in helping to prevent others from potential contagion. All Children under the age of six years are exempt from this requirement.
- IV. **Sunday Mass obligation is suspended**
  - a. The Sunday Mass Obligation is suspended indefinitely for all persons living in or visiting in the Tucson Diocese.
  - b. Mass is provided for voluntary attendance for healthy persons.

**V. Our Celebration of Mass will include the following**

- a. During the Phase Two Opening Protocol, we will be offering Sunday Masses as well as weekday Masses. Depending on attendance, one of the three options will be provided. Planning for three options will allow flexibility to adjust as needed to accommodate maximum seating requirements, social distancing, and cleaning protocols.
- b. **Mass schedule Options:**
  - i. *Option One*- Reduce current Phase One Sunday Liturgies times back to the regular Sunday and Saturday evening schedule. Morning weekday Liturgies will be offered on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.
  - ii. *Option Two*- In the unlikely event that attendance is too high to accommodate everyone in option one, the Phase One schedule for extended Sunday Liturgies will be offered. One morning weekday Mass will be provided on Wednesday.
  - iii. ***Option Three*- If attendance allows, the schedule will return to the regularly scheduled Sunday and Weekday Masses.**
- c. Social distancing is required to include: The seating is arranged to have a 6-foot seating radius. A single person, or a couple of the same household or a family of the same household (3 or more) are to be distanced from non-related people in the same pew. Pews will be roped off; every third pew is open for seating. Greeters will open exterior doors and will sanitize them during and after Mass.
- d. Please be aware of posted signs that will read "Church Full" if the new capacity requirements have been met. We would ask then that you attend a later Mass.
- e. A gloved Greeter/Usher will open exterior doors. Inside doors will remain propped open.
- f. The use of hymnals and missals will be suspended.
- g. Singing will be suspended, since it may add to the respiratory droplets in the air. Piano and organ will continue at the 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday Masses.
- h. There will be no processions.
- i. For the Preparation of the Gifts, there will be no procession with parishioners handling the wine cruet and ciborium with hosts; they will be already in the Sanctuary.
- j. Guidelines for receiving Holy Communion.
  - i. Communion will be received after the final blessing and dismissal outside under the canopy.
  - ii. During the Distribution of Holy Communion, Communion may only be received in the hand. Please form a cup with your hands to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

- iii. Ministers will make use of hand sanitizer.
- iv. Deacons and Lay Ministers of Communion will be scheduled for all Masses.

- k. For the sign of peace, people will be asked to make a non-contact gesture.
- l. During the Lord's Prayer, there will be no hand-holding.
- m. We are encouraging everyone to use hand sanitizer and to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when you get home.
- n. The air conditioning will be running to facilitate ventilation.
- o. Holy Water fonts will be dry.
- p. The collection will be taken up with long-handled baskets.

**VI. Common areas are not to be used during this current Phase Two.**

**VII. No other public gatherings outside of Mass are to be held during Phase Two.**

**VIII. Eucharistic Adoration**

- a. Adoration will be scheduled for the Thursday before the First Friday of the Month.
- b. The time will be from 9:00 am -11:00 am.

**IX. Funerals and Weddings-**

- a. These Masses will follow the same protocols as Sunday Masses, especially about maximum seating in the Church.

**X. Baptisms-**

- a. Baptisms will be limited to 20 people, and social distancing requirements will be in place.
- b. Special announcements will be made regarding requirements for family related to social distancing and masks requirements.

**XI. Communion Distribution and visits to Shut-ins**

- a. These situations will be evaluated on a case by case basis with the Pastors approval.
- b. All protocols involving masks and social distancing will be observed for the safety of the minister and the recipient

**XII. Fundraising events-**

- a. The events are not anticipated at this time.

**XIII. Parish Bulletins-**

- a. Flocknote is being utilized weekly for distribution of the bulletin.

- b. Parish bulletins will also continue to be distributed at the end of Mass times only.

**XIV. Sacrament of Penance**

- a. The Sacrament of penance will continue to be celebrated at the designated areas within the Sanctuary and not in the confessionals
- b. Social distancing and the mask requirement are required
- c. Penance will be celebrated outdoors as the weather cools.

**XV. Sanitizing procedures**

- a. Sanitize the wooden pews.
- b. All glass in all vestibules and glass outside of the cry room and musician's room will be sanitized, and trash cans will be emptied.
- c. Outside door handles will be wiped clean as well as the prie-dieu at all four statues.
- d. Altar floors will be mopped, and the church floors that have been in use (this will exclude those floors marked off for no seating).
- e. The sanitizing will consist of the sacristy, which provides for countertops, light switches, all doorknobs, drawers, cabinets, and closets that have been in use.
- f. The door handles leading in and out of the sacristy to the outside, and the main sacristy door handles leading in and out of the altar will be disinfected and the restrooms inside and out.