



ST. CLARE
OF MONTEFALCO
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Returning to Mass information

Dear parishioners of St. Clare,

Welcome to our new normal! As we come together again for the celebration of Mass and other liturgies, we must be mindful of how this can be accomplished safely and ensure as much as possible the wellbeing of each other. Your cooperation in adhering to the protocol will help us reduce the severity of a second wave occurring. We realize these changes may cause some discomfort and inconvenience and you may not be seated at your usual spot; therefore we respectfully ask for your patience, forgiveness and prayer as we begin this process of re-opening St. Clare.

It is our intent to begin the celebration of Masses daily on **Tuesday May 26 at 6:30 pm and our first Sunday Masses on the weekend of May 30/31.**

All ministries: Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Music, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and Sacristans were informed about different protocols of returning to our church.

As we evaluate the effectiveness of these protocols, we will make slight adjustments, however we anticipate continuing this schedule and to keep these protocols in place at St. Clare until **September 6, 2020.**

Dispensation from Sunday Mass Obligation:

- Although the faithful are dispensed from their Sunday obligation to attend Mass through September 6 2020, we must observe the Lord's Day and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday, meditating on the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. Participation in spiritual or corporal acts of mercy are encouraged, and the use of the Spiritual Communion Prayer is recommended.
- St. Clare will continue to broadcast the 9:00 am Sunday Mass live via Facebook, it will also be available to view after the broadcast on the parish website.
- Everyone is welcome to come and join us for the Eucharist. As noted in the Archbishop letter, those 65 years and older (the recommended CDC age) are more susceptible to contracting the virus, and are encouraged to stay home.

Circumstances that prohibit attendance:

- Anyone with a compromised health condition should refrain from attending services
- Anyone caring for a sick individual should refrain from attending services
- Anyone with symptoms of illness – a cough, fever etc. should refrain from attending services
- **All liturgical ministers:**
 - Priest, Deacon, Lectors, Cantors, Ushers, Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers with a respiratory infection of any kind should avoid celebrating public Masses.

Mass Schedule

We have added one extra weekend Mass to the schedule. This provides an option for additional seating capacity and also this Mass will be used to accommodate special celebrations without impacting the other services. The weekday Mass schedule has been adjusted to accommodate two morning services and two evening services per week. Monday the church will be closed to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

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Weekday Masses

Monday: no Mass

Tuesday: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: 8:00 am

Thursday: 6:30 pm

Friday: 8:00 am

Schedule of Devotions and Prayer opportunities

- All Devotions will be said immediately following the Mass
- Tuesday - Devotion to St. Michael
- Wednesday - Devotion to Our Lady
- Thursday – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- Friday – Divine Mercy Chaplet following the Mass
- First Friday Adoration will follow Mass the first Friday of each month and continue until noon.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes before Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the Family Room. Saturday in the Family Room from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- All prayer group gatherings are suspended until further notice.

Face Masks

- Face coverings/masks must be worn by the faithful in and around the church. (except for those under 2 years old).
- If needed masks will be available in the church.
- Gloves are optional, if needed, they will be available in the church.
- We will also have masks for sale with the St. Clare graphics
- Priest, Deacon, Organist, Cantor, Lector are not required to wear masks or gloves during the liturgy as they perform their liturgical duties.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

We will supply ample products (gloves, sanitizers, wipes) at various locations inside the church to clean and sanitize your space. There will be additional trash receptacles to accommodate the disposal of these products after use.

It will be the responsibility of each person to clean and sanitize their space after Mass. Parents are responsible for their children. You are welcome to use the products provided by the church or if you prefer, bring those you are familiar with from your home.

We will: empty trash receptacles, clean and sanitize entrance doors, railings, bathrooms etc. after services. Every Monday the church will be cleaned and sanitize thoroughly.

Parish churches are not to exceed 25% of total capacity.

- **In order to maintain proper physical distancing, churches cannot exceed 25% of its total capacity.**
- St. Clare seating capacity is 870. 25% equals approx. 200. With physical distancing of 6' required, and considering the layout of our church, we can accommodate 150 per Mass. The Choir Loft will be used to store all song books removed from the pews.
- Seating will be designated with the ushers and greeters assisting to ensure we maintain the required distance. Those living in the same household may sit together without distancing.
- **Air circulation** will be on maximum to allow fresh air movement within the building.
- **Holy Water** and Baptismal fonts will remain empty.
- **Funerals, Weddings, and Baptisms** will resume under the same conditions.
- **All non-liturgical gatherings** will continue to be suspended until further notice.

