

SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT

Guidelines for Re-opening St. Albert the Great church

Welcome Home! As our church leaders have encouraged us, every parish is to fashion a return to sacramental life that fits its particular circumstances and capabilities. These guidelines have been developed in accord with diocesan guidelines, Pastoral Council recommendations and the extensive planning of the pastoral staff. These guidelines are in conformity with those of the Diocese of Cleveland and the best and the latest recommendations of the state and national health officials. Please refer to our parish website (www.saint-Albert.org) for the most up-to-date guidelines, procedures and schedules. Our parish office (440-237-6760) is another source of schedule and information. Anyone unable to cooperate or uncomfortable with all of these guidelines is asked to refrain from approaching the community for public worship at this time.

Our virtual broadcast of Mass and Ministry Schedule

- Daily Mass at 9:00 AM (Monday through Friday),
- ALL Weekend Masses and
- Weeknight Devotions most weeknights at 6:00 PM.

Returning to Mass is NOT Required until Further Notice.

While the members of the church are welcome to return to church, it is with many precautions. The Bishops of Ohio are not requiring Catholics to attend mass on Sunday. As they have said, they are “extending the dispensation from the obligation to attend mass on Sunday until further notice”. This means that no one should feel compelled to attend mass at this still uncertain time.

Who should NOT return Immediately?

Not everyone should return to church right now. We are especially mindful of

- those who are 60 years of age or older,
- those of any age who have compromising health issues,
- anyone experiencing symptoms of respiratory infection or a fever over 100.1°F.
- Anyone who does not want to comply with the health precautions below

Our recommendation is that we go slowly and that vulnerable people would remain “at home” participating in mass “virtually” as they are able.

“A soft opening“: safe, sanitary, and gradual return

We will not be resuming life as it was prior to the stay at home order but with many public health precautions. Therefore the cooperation, patience, and charity of all parishioners are needed to help us respect and protect the health and safety of everyone to the best of our ability. Any participation in the celebration of the sacraments and ministry in our parish buildings must be conducted with these “social distance and sanitary precautions“:

- stay home if you are not well (any symptoms of respiratory illness)
- number of people permitted in church is limited to approx. 250 people, Adoration Chapel is limited to 8 people
- face coverings are to be worn inside buildings by everyone older than two years of age (please bring your own)

- sanitization of hands upon entering the building (carry personal sanitizer with you)
- social distance while seated and during standing/waiting in line (pews and floors are marked)
- reception of holy communion in the hand only(see video on webpage)
- no use of kneelers, no physical contact with non-family members, no socializing in the church, etc

Seating chart, capacity and schedule

The “soft” resumption of public mass is necessary at this time so that the church can be thoroughly sanitized which is required after every public celebration. Worshipers may enter through the propped open doors of the Church 15 minutes prior to the time of mass. Seating will be permitted only in the designated areas. Parishioners are asked to sit only on the seats that are marked with yellow tape.

Weekday Masses

Weekday mass at 9:00 AM (limited to the first 250 people arriving) until further notice. Daily worshipers are asked to only enter through the chandelier entrance near the elevator, only through the “propped open” doors at 8:45 AM.

Sunday Mass

Worshippers (limited to the first 250 people arriving) are asked to enter the church no earlier than 15 minutes prior to mass, at which time the doors will be propped open. Everyone will need to patiently follow the instructions and the safety precautions mentioned above and allow for a possible delayed start of the mass due to these new procedures.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession (celebrated with social distance precautions described above) most likely on a week night(emergency confessions must be arranged individually by calling the parish office).

The Adoration Chapel

The adoration chapel is available for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament weekdays Monday through Friday unlimited hours. Please check the Parish website for those evolving hours.