

Yesterday, Archbishop Gustavo informed the public that we can reopen our churches beginning on Monday, May 19 for daily Masses, and the weekend Masses on Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th which is the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord into heaven.

With that being said, there have been a list of guidelines for our parishes to implement, which means we can only have 25% of the seating capacity of the worship space for attendees. Our worship space accommodates around 624. With that as our base number to work from, this means we can allow around 155 persons per Mass. This being the case, when people come to Mass, it is the FIRST 155 that will be seated by an usher, as families living under the same roof may sit together, while others must respect the 6 foot social distancing. Greeters will be at the doors to keep track of those entering the building. Once the established capacity is reached the doors will be locked and no one can come into the building. Be advised, our door system will lock the doors, not allowing anyone to come in. But people can exit the building as the doors have a sensor that will allow you to leave. This means if you want to attend a particular Mass, you must be early in order to assure your seating.

It might take us a few weeks to work out all the kinks, so please be patient with us as we all learning these guidelines together.

There will only be ONE WAY to enter the church, and ONE WAY to exit. Those entries will be the south doors of the main entrance and the one set of double doors facing west. As you enter there will be a hand sanitizer station for you to sanitize your hands. You MUST wait at the entry doors of the worship center to be escorted by an usher to your seat. This does not mean you pick your seat, but follow the usher and he will seat you. Once in your seat you may not move around or change your assigned seat. Please note there will be no Holy Water at the entrance door.

Those who are attending Mass MUST wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth. If you wish you can bring a small bottle of alcohol sanitizer to sanitize your hands before you go to receive Communion.

Once the Mass starts, children and adults MAY NOT be in the hallways during Mass. The only exception is to use the restroom. May we suggest children go to the bathroom before Mass.

For Communion, the ushers will begin with the first row on ONE SIDE and move down that entire side before beginning the opposite side. Every person must exit the pew, whether receiving Communion or not, MUST get in line and follow the pattern set for reception. This will prevent people from having to crawl over people to reenter their pew. There will be social distancing marks for people to stand as they wait to move forward to receive. One CANNOT receive on the tongue. Please hold your hands extended so the priest/deacon can give you the Blessed Sacrament without being too close. You MUST wear your mask until you prepare to bow in back of the one in front of you and receive Communion. Once received you MUST put your mask on. Communion will only be one single row-not side-by-side. This will take longer, but this is for the safety of all in attendance. We will not be distributing from the cup. When there is a deacon, he may not receive from the presiders chalice.

All servers, EM's, deacons MUST wear a mask. For the time being we will not have any altar servers, but will have adult servers. There will be no congregational singing for the time being. Please DO NOT bring missals to Mass.

At the Sign of Peace, no hugging, hand shaking. Just an appropriate gesture, whether a bow or a some gesture.

Once Mass is finished, the exit doors will be at the east end of the building. Again, this needs to be orderly. The ushers will escort people, row by row. Please DO NOT exit at any other

doors, as there will be people waiting for the next Mass. There will be a hand sanitizer station at the exit door should you wish to sanitize your hands before leaving.

People MAY NOT CONGREGATE in the building or on the parking lot after Mass. We ask that you depart immediately.

We are encouraging those over 65, and most especially those who are vulnerable because of health conditions to stay at home and live stream the Mass. We are not sure if we will live stream all the Masses, but we will let you know which Mass will be live streamed. The daily Masses will continue to be live streamed, despite the fact that people who are able may attend. In this vein, we recommend that babies not be brought to Mass. This is a decision the parents can make, yet I feel it is safer for them if they stay at home.

As for the Sunday collections: they will be baskets set up as you exit the building for you to place your donation. There will be an usher assigned to monitor this. There will no collection as we have traditionally done, nor will there be an offertory procession. Bulletins may not be passed out, but left on a table by the exit doors.

The worship space and restrooms must be sanitized between each Mass. Thus, as time passes, we may need to adjust our Mass schedules to allow adequate time to sanitize those areas.

The blessing behind all this is that we can once again gather as Church to celebrate, even if the attendees will be limited. This is going to require some discipline on our part, as we are not at the point whereby we can 'fully' open our Churches for everyone at one time. Let us be patient and be supportive to one another in prayer as we move gradually into this initial step to getting ourselves back on track!.