

Sunday public Masses begin this coming Saturday and Sunday, May 23rd and 24th. For the time being we will follow our regularly weekend Mass schedule. The double set of doors on the west side of the building will not be unlocked until 7:45 am. All other entrance doors will be locked.

Please note there is only one way to ENTER the building, and one way to EXIT the building. The ONLY EXIT are the double doors on the east end of the building.

When entering the building sanitize your hands. There are sanitizers at the entrance doors.

You MUST wear a face mask covering your mouth and nose.

There will be ushers stationed at one set of the entrance doors to the worship space. An usher will escort you into the worship space and lead you to a seating area. You must wait at the entry way until an usher escorts you. You may not select where you want to sit but follow the usher for seating. DO NOT enter on your own. If there is a family living under the same roof, and if there is space permitting, you may sit together. Otherwise you will have to be separated.

Once the permitted occupancy rate has been reached, the doors to the building will be locked. People can exit the building but cannot enter the building. There will be an usher to assure no one is allowed to enter once the occupancy rate is reached.

Note every other row of chairs is blocked off to observe social distancing.

When coming for Communion, please note the social distancing markers location on the floor, and do not move from one marker to another until the person in front of you has moved.

As you stand behind the person in front of you, who is receiving Communion, please bow, remove your face mask for reception. Once you have received, please replace your face mask.

When Mass is over, the ushers will come and dismiss you row by row. You may not exit on your own but follow the exiting process. NOTE: the other doors are NOT exit doors. The hallway from the exit doors will be blocked to keep the exiting traffic moving in the right direction. Please note the hallways to the chapel and to the parish office and classrooms will be blocked at all times.

When leaving after Mass, please observe social distancing, and you may not congregate in the vestibule area, but must leave the building and parking lot immediately. This will be a bit inconvenient, but it is for the safety for all of us. Also, please sanitize your hands before leaving the church.

There will be NO collection taken at the usual time, nor offertory procession, but baskets will be at the exit doors to collect your church support. There will be an usher stationed to watch the baskets. I know this is a bit inconvenient, but this is the recommendation from the Archdiocese, as are all the above recommendations.

Please note: People MAY NOT be outside the worship space in the hallways during Mass. This must be strictly observed. All participants MUST be in the worship space.

Once the worship space is vacated, there will be a professional cleaning crew coming in to sanitize the entire worship space area, as well as the restrooms.

One final note: it is strongly recommended that persons over 65, especially those who have health issues stay at home and watch the Mass. The same applies to baby's and small children.

Our daily Mass will be live streamed at 9:00 am, and two weekend Mass will be live streamed; namely the 10:30 am and 1:00 o'clock Spanish Mass.

If after a few week, and based upon how much time it takes for the professional cleaners to sanitize the worship space, we might have to adjust the Mass schedule.

Confessions in English will begin on Saturday at 3:30 pm until 4:15 pm. Please note the chairs in the hallway must meet the recommended distancing. Confessions in Spanish will begin at as soon as the building is cleared after the 10:30 am Mass. Remember people must wait at the entrance doors to be checked in before they can proceed to confessions for the 1:00 pm Mass.

There is one thing I wish to respond to, as some have questioned why the Church of San Antonio is not following the Governor's guidelines about reopening churches. First, there is a separation between Church and State, and secondly, the Archbishop, as our Shepherd has the obligation to implement the safeguards that he feels are necessary to bring safety to our places of worship. We must respect this and not question what he, after careful consultation with local Country and City governments and the Archdiocesan Task Force, has passed down as guidelines for the Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of San Antonio during this pandemic.

Thank you for you cooperation. Remember, it is a blessing to be together once again in prayer rather than not being able to gather as Church at all!