



The Catholic Community of

St. Thomas More

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH **GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR FUNERALS** **(SUMMER, 2020)**

GUIDELINES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Welcome to St Thomas More.

In order to keep everyone safe during this Covid-19 pandemic, we need your help and support!

There are several Guidelines listed below which out-line how we are currently managing our indoor Masses and gatherings.

Please share these guidelines, in advance, with all family members and friends joining together for this funeral Mass and ask everyone to follow them. Thank you!

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES:

- **Attendees will be limited to 125 people** including the family members, guests, liturgical staff, volunteers and funeral home;
- **Everyone must wear a mask while on campus** (the only exemptions are children under 2 years old). All other exceptions require prior approval by the Pastor;
- All family and guests are encouraged to bring their own **hand sanitizer** (hand sanitizing stations will also be positioned outside the church sanctuary);
- **Social distancing** must be observed at all times while on campus;

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES (continued...):

- The procession into and out of the church will be guided by STM Funeral Care volunteers and according to the Guidelines below;
- **Seating in the church** has been pre-labeled to allow for social distancing;
- **Communion** will be distributed according to the Guidelines below;
- **Mass Programs** will be distributed to guests upon arrival (guests should take these with them following the Mass).

GUIDELINES FOR GUESTS PROCESSING INTO & OUT OF THE CHURCH:

- In order to keep all family members and guests safe while in the church, please see the attached seating diagram;
- Each pew has been pre-labeled to allow for social distancing between groupings of guests;
- STM Funeral Care volunteers will seat arriving guests.
- Once Mass is over, recess out of the church will be guided by the family's plans for interment/inurnment of the deceased and any reception gatherings with family and guests. These plans must be approved by the STM Pastor in advance of the funeral Mass.

GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNION:

- Communion will be distributed first to the family;
- In order to maintain social distancing during Communion, the Funeral Care volunteers will guide the process.
- Note that Communion will be distributed on the hand only. Each parishioner receiving Communion should keep their masks in place while waiting on line and social distancing. When it is their turn, the recipient should fully extend their arms, receive Communion, lower their mask and consume the Host and then reposition their masks and use hand sanitizer as they return to their seat.

Thank you for your help and cooperation to help keep everyone safe.