



St. Margaret Mary Parish "The Catholic Comeback"

Opening of the Church for Masses



As we seek to re-open the Church to pray together at Sunday Mass – let's look at the necessary steps it will take for everyone involved.

Let there be no mistake to be made: **THE VIRUS IS STILL WITH US and IT IS DEADLY!**

Without a vaccine the only way to protect each other is to think of NOT spreading it!

- Wash Hands 20 minutes – often!
- Keep 6 ft. distance space from others!
- Wear a Full Face Mask!
- THINK OF PROTECTING OTHERS – BE CATHOLIC, love one another!

Instructions for Ushers & Greeters

1. Hospitality ministers and ushers should wear masks and should not make physical contact when greeting parishioners.
2. There should be one greeter outside welcoming parishioners:
 - a. Call attention to the poster asking those with symptoms not to enter the church.
 - b. Ask them to wear masks to Mass. Disposable ones are available the first weekend.
 - c. Alert them that ushers will help them to find seats that abide by social distancing.
3. Entrance doors should be propped open to limit contact with door handles or hospitality ministers may hold open doors.
4. The ushers should direct people where to sit (the parishioner can choose the area of church where they would like to sit – the usher can make sure they get in the appropriate pew):
 - a. Every third pew should be used. These are marked with blue tape on the edge of the pews, and a long orange stripe marking the area of the seat back to be used.
 - b. Households can sit together. If a larger group, it may be that no one else can sit in that pew.
 - c. Social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet between people not living in the same household must be followed.
5. Ushers taking the Collection should wear masks and gloves.
 - a. Ushers must immediately wash their hands after the collection.
6. Only Fr. Pat and Deacon Frank will distribute communion:
 - a. This will be done section-by-section, front to rear, at the direction of the ushers.
 - b. Keep 6 feet between people not in same household in the communion line.

7. Dismissal after Mass will be done by section, pew-by-pew, back-to-front, at the direction of the ushers.
 - a. **Kneelers should be put down** by the parishioners to show which pews need to be cleaned. The ushers should make sure the kneelers are down as people leave.
 - b. Encourage parishioners to walk directly out of the church and to their cars. Discourage any congregating in the hallways.
8. **There will be no bulletins to distribute.** All announcements will be done verbally during Mass. A copy of the bulletin is available on the SMM website.

Instructions for Cleaner:

1. Frequently touched surfaces in the church (pews/pew tops, door handles, microphones, etc.) should be cleaned and sanitized per CDC recommendations after every liturgy.
2. Restrooms should be cleaned between Masses.
3. Develop a process for cleaning between Masses that maintains social distancing.
4. **Areas to be wiped clean/disinfected – BETWEEN EACH OF THE MASSES:**
 - a. Pews – top of pew where hands rest
 - b. Ambo, microphone
 - c. Cantor stand top, microphone
 - d. Hand bells - handles
 - e. Restrooms – toilet seats, handles, tops of urinals, handles, sinks, counter tops, paper towel dispenser
 - f. Door handles – all doors
5. **Areas to be sprayed clean/disinfected (Fr. Pat will do this):**
 - a. Pews – seat cushions, kneelers
 - b. Server seats, kneeler

Instructions for Everyone:

6. Signage should be placed on entrance doors asking anyone with fever or flu-like symptoms not to enter the church.
7. Every third pew should be used.
8. All Missals, Bibles, prayer cards or other paper resources must be removed from pews.
9. Hand sanitizer should be available at all church entrances.
10. Gathering Area Tables and Chairs should be put into storage so as not to invite people to use them.