

June 23, 2020

Dear Immaculate Conception Parishioners,

I am write to tell you the happy news that we are beginning to offer Masses with up to 100 people this weekend. Our parish staff and volunteers have been working very hard to establish a plan that does everything we reasonably can to make this a safe reopening for those who are able to attend. Please read the following carefully to facilitate a smooth reopening.

Weekday Masses Schedule

Mon, Wed, Fri: 7:30AM

Tues and Thurs: 6:30PM

Eucharistic Holy Hour: Thursday 7-8PM. Confessions 7:30-8PM

(Only the first Holy Hour of each month will have a preached meditation)

Weekend Mass Schedule

- **Saturday**
5:30PM Mass
- **Sunday**
9:00AM Mass
11:00AM Mass [Live-streamed on Facebook]
6:00PM Mass

Confessions

Confessions will be 20 minutes before every daily Mass
Saturday at 5PM; Sunday at 8:30AM, 10:30AM, 5:30AM
Thursday 7:30-8PM

Seating

Signups are not required for Mass but no more than 100 people are allowed in the church at a time.

Please see the [attached floor plan](#).

When arriving at church, please keep socially distanced from other households as you enter.

Ushers at the entrance of the church will “direct traffic,” to help the faithful keep six feet from each other while entering and exiting the building.

Please enter through the center doors and exit through the side door

Face Mask Requirement

Please wear face masks for the entirety of Mass. If you choose to wear protective gloves, they must be removed prior to receiving Communion on the hand. We will also ask everyone to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the church, so please bring some with you.

Hymnals

All Hymnals and Missalettes have been removed. You may use your phones to access readings during Mass.

Plans for Disinfecting Worship Space after each Liturgy

Several teams of volunteers have been formed to clean and disinfect the church after each Mass. The teams will use disposable gloves when cleaning.

Hand sanitizer is placed at the entrance to facilitate disinfecting when people exit and leave.

In addition to our sanitizing efforts, all are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer and personal disinfecting wipes to sanitize their individual worship space before and after Mass.

There will be no congregating in common areas before or after Mass.

Plan for Church to Maintain Social Distancing

Pews have been sealed off with ribbons to promote adequate distance between attendees.

Please maintain a six-foot distance from each other at all times. In the church, people will be seated in every other pew – six-feet apart from each other. Seating is so arranged that no one is directly behind the person or in front of them.

Members of a single household do not need to practice physical distancing with each other and so may sit together in the same row.

Ushers with long collection baskets will take up the collection during the offertory. Please refrain from touching the basket.

The invitation “Let us offer each other the sign of peace” and the exchange of peace that follows are omitted. Holding hands during the praying of the Our Father is forbidden.

Communion

All Catholics who are in a state of grace are invited to receive Communion at this time.

Those who have health concerns and do not wish to receive sacramental Communion may make an Act of Spiritual Communion.

Those who will not receive Communion should not come forward with hands crossed for a blessing; there is a blessing for everyone at the end of Mass.

Children who will not receive Communion but who are old enough to remain in their seat should do so, and not get in the line for Communion.

When you approach for Communion, please remain six feet from others in the line. Please stand at the X marked spaces on the floor. When it is your time to receive, keep your mask on and remain six feet away from the minister while he shows the Host and says, The Body of Christ. After you respond, Amen, approach the minister.

Place one hand under the other while keeping your fingers together. Receive the Host in your hand, then step six feet away from the minister. Then carefully loosen your facial covering (or mask by an ear loop), consume the Host, and replace the facial covering. If the minister accidentally touches anyone's hand, he will immediately disinfect his own hands.

We are encouraging the faithful to receive on the hand, but you still may receive on the tongue. If you choose to receive on the tongue, please wait until most people have received, and then line up at the end of the line. If the minister accidentally touches anyone's tongue, he will immediately disinfect his own hands.

Mass Obligation Dispensed

The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation remains in effect and you may have to make the difficult decision to remain at home even as we offer public Masses. This would include those with COVID-19 or exposed to it, as well as those with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms or underlying medical conditions, the sick, the elderly, those who are living with or in the presence of any individual at risk, or those that still do not feel comfortable being in a public setting.

In the Lord,

Fr. Gallagher