

## Mass Attendance Protocol – May 23&24

We are so pleased to be able to continue to hold public Mass this weekend celebrating the Sixth Sunday of Easter and so this letter goes into a little more detail of the protocols. Mass times are 5:30pm Saturday and 8:00am, and 10:00am on Sunday. The 10:00 am Mass will also be streamed live on YouTube. **Cardinal DiNardo has reiterated that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains SUSPENDED.**

The following are the protocols for Mass this weekend that were developed with consult of the Pastoral Council and the Staff to align with Archdiocesan and State of Texas requirements. We know these may not be convenient, but they are necessary for everyone's safety. Please understand everyone is doing their best to make this happen.

1. *Parishioners who are at higher risk due to age (older than 65) or immune system vulnerabilities or are living with people with such risks are **strongly encouraged** to stay home. Parishioners who are ill or showing any symptoms or are living with people who are ill **MUST stay home**. You can view the 10:00 am Mass on YouTube. There are no precautions that can remove all risks and the safest action for you and others is to stay home if you should. This pandemic will end in time!*
2. We are required to limit seating 124 people. So please be understanding if we need to turn parishioners away even if it looks like there is space.
3. All attendees over the age of 10 are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings which cover the nose and mouth. Some liturgists will not be wearing coverings during the service but will be at least 6' away at those times.
4. We must enter and exit the church in an orderly manner. There will be signs to queue up in the driveway between the Rectory and Narthex and entrance will only occur at the Narthex. The driveway that leads to the Narthex entrance will be closed to vehicle traffic so **BE AWARE THERE IS NO DROP-OFF AREA** there.
5. Please **DO NOT** approach the church or queue up prior to 25 minutes before the Mass. Please do not put us in the awkward position of asking you to return to your car. Mass will start only when we are all seated. The church will be cleaned / sanitized between the Masses.
6. Attendees must use provided hand sanitizer upon entering but if you can, bring your own and let us see you using it as you enter the Narthex to ensure we have enough. Then promptly go to an available seat. Sorry but we cannot visit or congregate in the Narthex.
7. Seating in the church is marked with blue tape i.e. you can sit where the blue tape is....**families in the SAME HOUSEHOLD** can sit together. Every other pew will be blocked off.
8. There are no missalettes or hymnals in the church. Plan is to have handout for music and some prayers that you can dispose of after Mass. Please do not leave anything in the church.

9. Communion is offered under only one species and **only in the hand** at this time. Instructions will be given for receiving Holy Eucharist.
10. There will need to be an orderly dismissal to prevent crowding at the door – please be patient and remember that as always, leaving early merely for convenience is not an acceptable practice.
11. The Family Life Center will be closed. Please do not use this as a passageway to the church. The restrooms will be available for use. On Sunday you may see activity in the hall as the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an **appointment only** Blood Drive.

Seems like a lot of rules but ask for your understanding and patience. We will try to get everything right but know there will be learnings. And again, you know if you should stay home....and if so, please STAY HOME and watch the celebration of the Mass at 10:00am on YouTube.