



Sacred Heart Church

Established 1875

1000 Eliot Street
Detroit, Michigan 48207
(313) 831-1356 Fax: (313) 831-8603

Fr. Norman P. Thomas, Pastor

May 13, 2020

Dear Parish Family:

On Tuesday, March 12, Archbishop Vigneron announced that public Masses could resume in the Archdiocese of Detroit, effective Tuesday, May 19. **Sacred Heart will re-open on Saturday, May 30th** and will resume our normal Mass schedules of: Saturday at 5 p.m., Sunday at 8 & 10 a.m. and Tuesday at 6 p.m..

In accordance with Executive Order by the Governor and with the guidance of the Archdiocese we will only be operating at 25% capacity, which will accommodate about 100 people per Mass. *We will not have tickets to enter the church, but the enclosed guidelines will help you to understand the procedures that we have put in place to protect you and the parish staff during these uncertain times.*

Due to the social distancing, that will be around for some time, we have decided to close the Activities Building for food service, functions and meetings for the remainder of the year. We will use the main hall of the Activities Building on Sundays for overflow seating ONLY.

We thank you for your unending support of the parish during these times. I am certain that our ministries near and far will be needed more than ever.

We invite you to continue your support of the parish through your giving. Gifts can be sent to the parish via mail, in the offering box during Mass or online @ www.sacredheartdetroit.com/online-giving. Our new online giving portal is simple, secure, and an easy way to make your parish contribution.

Sincerely,

Fr. Norman P. Thomas,
Pastor



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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“RE-OPENING” CHURCH & MASSES TO OUR PARISHIONERS *The Lord is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!!!*

Starting Saturday, May 30, 2020

- ◆ Please enter by the NORTH (Eliot) or SOUTH (ramp) Door on Rivard St.
- ◆ Wearing a mask is required
- ◆ Bring your own hand sanitizer
- ◆ Sit only in designated pews.
- ◆ Occupants not to exceed 100 persons and social distancing to be maintained.
- ◆ **Starting on Saturday May 30, 2020**, the Masses with parishioners will resume.
- ◆ Weekday Mass:
 - ◆ Tuesday @ 6p.m.
- ◆ Weekend Masses:
 - ◆ Saturday @ 5:00 pm
 - ◆ Sunday @ 8:00 am, 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ **The 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass will continue to be Live Streamed on Sacred Heart’s Facebook and website through September 6, 2020.**

For the Parish Reopening we have many additional PROTOCOLS that all parishioners must follow in order to attend Mass. These procedures will be re-evaluated weekly. If you would like to attend Mass, please read through the details below. Thank you for your patience and compliance.

Please realize that while we are excited to be returning to public liturgy, COVID-19 is still with us. As such, attending Mass will bring with it certain risks. We will try to moderate those risks by safety protocols. **However, Archbishop Vigneron has maintained the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass (in person) through September 6, 2020, and the live streaming of the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass will continue until that time. Furthermore, those who are 65 and over or those with high-risk health conditions SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME. This is the population that is most vulnerable to the Coronavirus. Of course, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not enter a church until released to do so by their health care professional.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

ATTENDANCE CAPACITY & SEATING

- ◆ For now, Masses will be limited to 25% capacity across the Archdiocese.
- ◆ For Sacred Heart, this equates to 100 in our main sanctuary per Mass.
- ◆ Because it is not possible to accommodate all our parishioners for Sunday Masses each weekend, we are asking parishioners to attend only every other week
 - ◆ **Last Name. A-J to attend on Fifth, Second and Fourth Sundays—First possible Mass is May 31st.**
 - ◆ **Last names K-Z — First & Third Sundays—First Possible weekend is June 7th.**
 - ◆ **You are welcome to attend the Saturday Mass**

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- ◆ The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered “at risk” by the CDC (*65-years and over and those with high-risk health conditions*) SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME and not attend Mass in person for their own safety.
- ◆ Wash your hands.
- ◆ Masks and face coverings are required on campus & during Mass.
- ◆ Bring your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Holy Communion.
 - ◆ Sacred Heart does not have a current supply to provide for all congregants.
- ◆ Please do not bring items that contain bleach into the sanctuary as this will damage the pews.

MASS ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- ◆ Only the MAIN Doors (North and South) on Rivard will be used for entry. *The Sacristy and Choir room doors will be closed for entry.* (Please, park accordingly.)
- ◆ Masks and face coverings are required on campus & during Mass.
- ◆ Arrive 20-30 minutes before Mass begins to stand in line, while observing social distancing.
- ◆ The Rivard St. doors of the church will open 20 minutes prior to Mass start.
- ◆ Ushers will seat your household. **You must wait to be escorted.**
- ◆ The church will be seated to fill the open pews from front to back.
- ◆ Every two pews will be closed with no more than 3 people to a pew unless they are from the same household.
- ◆ You may be sharing a pew with another household, but 6 feet social distance is required between the households.
- ◆ There will be seating in the balcony.
- ◆ Bathrooms in the choir room will be closed.
- ◆ The holy water fonts will remain empty.

If we reach capacity for a given Mass, NO MORE congregants will be granted entry or seats. On Sundays there will be overflow in the Activities Building. No one wants to 'deny' you access to the Mass; however, this is to accommodate the CDC, Michigan State, and Archdiocesan guidelines for public assembly. Please remain respectful with those tasked with ushering.

MASS PROCEDURES

- ◆ Masses will be conducted as you have seen on the Live Stream with reduced volunteer lay ministers. There will be ***no*** altar servers, choirs and only 2 Ministers of Service, Faith or Hope at any given Mass.
- ◆ Pre-Identified Scheduled Persons will serve as ushers until further notice.
- ◆ **NO** Presentation of Gifts, or Offertory will take place
- ◆ Masks and face coverings are required on campus & during Mass.
- ◆ Please refrain from all physical contact between households.
- ◆ No holding hands during the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ No Sign of Peace
- ◆ Baskets will not be used during the offertory. You will be able to place your weekly gift in a basket as you exit the church. We strongly encourage online giving at <https://sacredheartdetroit.com/online-giving>

HOLY COMMUNION & MASS DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

- ◆ Holy Communion will be distributed as normal, from the main aisle, but there will be only 1 single file line and no communion station in the back of the church (10:30 a.m. Mass).
- ◆ Ushers will dismiss each pew.
- ◆ Holy Communion will be distributed by Fr. Thomas and one minister.
- ◆ Holy Communion will be distributed ***only*** by the Host -- the Body of Christ. The Precious Blood will ***not*** be offered to the congregation.
As Catholics, we believe that Christ is fully present Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity even when we only receive either the Body or Blood of Christ at Mass. You are also not required to receive each time you attend Mass. You may continue with 'Spiritual Communion' if you prefer.
- ◆ Archbishop Vigneron recommends Holy Communion be received by the hand or by the tongue. *If you prefer to receive Communion by the tongue we ask that you receive communion last.*
- ◆ You may not receive communion wearing gloves
- ◆ Use of personal hand sanitizer before Holy Communion is required. *(Please, bring your own).*
- ◆ No blessing of non-Communicants will be offered by directive of the Archdiocese (for now).

MASS FINAL PROCESSION & DEPARTURE

- ◆ After the final Mass blessing, parishioners must remain in their pew.
- ◆ Pews will be dismissed in an orderly fashion starting in the front of the church and then moving back.
- ◆ You must exit your pew when prompted. ***Private prayer will not available after Sunday Masses to allow the church to be cleaned and reset for the next Mass.***
- ◆ Ushers will dismiss each pew.

- ◆ You can drop your weekly offertory in the basket by the exit as you depart.
- ◆ Fr Thomas will not shake hands or greet parishioners after Mass (for now).
- ◆ No contact should occur between households. Please do not congregate outside but head directly to your vehicle to allow the next Mass to start on time.

CHURCH CLEANING PROCEDURES

- ◆ Sacred Heart will continue to implement cleanliness and sanitization practices, including cleaning pews in between every Mass.
- ◆ Disinfecting bathrooms, door handles, and other frequently touched surfaces occur throughout the day.
- ◆ Parish staff and Ushers will be required to wear face masks, wash hands, and will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

You are reminded to follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health. The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered “at risk” by the CDC (65-years and over or those with high-risk health conditions) not attend Mass in person for their own safety. If you fall into an “at risk” category, please stay home and join us by Live Stream.

If you test positive with COVID-19 within 14 days of Mass attendance, please notify the parish immediately.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Confessions will be offered on Saturday one hour before Mass in the main church sanctuary (or if weather permits outside at Marian shrine at the WEST end of the church.

- ◆ Please enter the church by the South (handicap ramp) entrance by the parish rectory.
- ◆ Wearing a mask is required
- ◆ Upon entry and exit, wash your hands in the bathroom there.
- ◆ Please maintain social distance (6 feet) apart when waiting.
- ◆ Confessions will take place in the main sanctuary, as they might at a Communal Penance Service. Set-up will allow your confession to be private while maintaining social distance.
- ◆ For prayer, please sit only in pews permitted for Sunday Mass
- ◆ Please do not stay longer than 30 minutes after your confession to allow other parishioners to enter the sanctuary.

Baptisms of Infants: Starting 19 May 2020, Sacred Heart will begin scheduling the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Please limit participants to family not to exceed 25. Of course, if there is danger of death, contact Fr. Thomas immediately.

Anointing of the Sick: Holy Communion for the Sick and viaticum for the dying will only be distributed by priests. Priests will continue to minister to the sick where they are permitted.

First Holy Communion: Will be postponed until 2021 for the safety of our children and in order to celebrate the Sacrament with the gathered community. Families will be notified.

Funerals: Funerals are permitted under the following conditions:

- ◆ A Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass may be celebrated with no more than 100 people present.
- ◆ This number will be strictly enforced by the pastor, with the assistance of the funeral director.
- ◆ All the present must wear masks.
- ◆ Holy Communion will be distributed as normal, from the main aisle, but there will be only 1 single file line and no communion station in the back of the church (10:30 a.m. Mass).
- ◆ Holy Communion will be distributed only by the Host -- the Body of Christ. The Precious Blood will not be offered to the congregation.
- ◆ You may not receive communion wearing gloves
- ◆ Use of personal hand sanitizer before Holy Communion is required. (*Please, bring your own*).
- ◆ No repast Meal, will be permitted.

PARISH OFFICE

The office will continue to remain semi-closed until further notice. Fr. Thomas is available daily by calling the parish. Other staff will continue to work from home as possible with some limited office hours as needed. Please call the church office 313-831-1356 with any pastoral needs or concerns.