

ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic Parish † Elm Grove, WI

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASSES AT ST. MARY'S

The Archdiocese has allowed the celebration of public Masses to resume the weekend of May 30/31st, the Feast of Pentecost. The Archdiocesan Guidelines can be found at the parish website as well as on the Archdiocesan website, we have been asked to apply these guidelines to our own parish and hopefully these questions and answers will help parishioners to get a sense of what to expect and what changes are in place during this time. We would ask for your patience and adherence to the guidelines put into place as we do things in a way different than what we are used to.

Can anyone go to Mass beginning the weekend of May 30/31st?

Yes, provided you are in good health and that neither you nor a member of your household is exhibiting flulike symptoms, anyone can go to Mass. However, if you are at a vulnerable age or health circumstances, we would ask that you consider staying home for the time being. The Archbishop has granted a dispensation from attendance at Sunday Mass until July 5, 2020.

Can I go to any Mass?

Yes, however, Archdiocesan Guidelines limit attendance to no more than 25% of capacity. So there may be a possibility that when one arrives, if that Mass is already full, people may have to return for a later Mass. We are hoping to provide enough Masses to accommodate those who would like to attend. We are going to try this system for two weeks and, if we experience difficulties, may have to look at a different system.

Can I sit anywhere?

We have divided the pews into various sections in order to keep things organized and at 25% capacity. When you arrive at church you will notice certain pews taped off or sectioned off – please do NOT remove the tape. We have clearly marked pews based on household size. The Atrium will also have seating with a live-feed from church being broadcast (please see accompanying diagram).

What time should people arrive for Mass?

We are asking that people do not arrive any earlier than fifteen minutes prior to the Mass they are planning to attend. This is important as it gives time to properly sanitize pews in between Masses.

Will the Mass times be the same?

Yes and no. We are doing some shuffling of Mass times in the hopes that we can accommodate taping the Saturday evening Mass for distribution via e-mail (for those who are not able to come) as well as to accommodate the addition of another Mass on Sunday mornings. Effective May 30th, the following will be our Mass times: Saturday evenings at 4:00 PM (which will also be videotaped) – Sundays at 7:30 AM, 8:45 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:15 AM, 2:00 PM (Traditional Latin Mass).

How will pews be sanitized?

We are asking the help of everyone who attends Mass to keep the pews sanitized by asking those who come to Mass to *please bring disinfecting wipes with them in order to sanitize their own pew at the end of Mass*. We will have some wipes and sprays available in the Atrium for those who do not have their own, or forget to bring them. We had hoped to be able to provide such materials, however, we are unable to procure them in the

quantities necessary and so we are hoping that parishioners can help by bringing their own. We are asking for everyone to help others by doing this thoroughly and consistently.

Will restroom facilities be available?

One restroom will be available, in the back of church in the west vestibule, only this one will be used in order to sanitize that bathroom at the end of each Mass according to Archdiocesan Guidelines. We would ask you to take this into consideration before coming to Mass.

Do we need to keep a distance from others in church?

Yes, in addition to the pews being marked off, we would ask that you maintain social distancing from other households. In order to do this, please give space to others when entering and leaving church and do not congregate for conversation in the church or Atrium. In addition, when coming up for Holy Communion, please keep at least three floor tile lengths apart between households.

Can I bring Holy Communion to family members who are sick or unable to come?

No, the Archbishop has limited the reception of Holy Communion for only those who are present at Mass and those who are dying. If a family member is actively dying, please call the Rectory so a priest can come to hear their confession, anoint them and bring them Holy Communion (Viaticum).

Do I have to wear a mask or gloves?

That is up to you, if you would like to wear a mask or gloves, you may, but it is not required. Please note, however, that gloves must be removed for the reception of Holy Communion.

Will there be a collection?

Yes, but in a different way, instead of ushers taking the collection as people sit in the pews, collection baskets will be provided at the west vestibule and Atrium entrances to church for your offertory, or envelopes and offertory can be made electronically or through the mail or by dropping envelopes off through the Rectory mailbox.

Will Orders of Worship or bulletins be distributed?

Orders of Worship are limited to one sheet of paper by Archdiocesan directive, these will be available on tables in the Atrium and the west vestibule – please dispose of them after use. Bulletins will be published electronically for the time being.

Will Daily Masses begin at the same time?

No, Daily Masses will not be celebrated publicly for the time being, as per Archdiocesan directives.

How long will these guidelines be in place?

The Archdiocese has laid out a three-phase approach to the resumption of normal parish life. We are currently in Phase One, we will be informed by the diocese of when we enter into Phase Two, and any changes will be given at that time. Please keep your eyes on the parish website for up-to-date information.

Will the parish continue to distribute a video of Mass for those who cannot come?

Yes, the 4:00 Saturday evening Mass will be taped and sent out via e-mail to those on our e-mail list as it has been for the past few weeks.

What can I do to help?

First and foremost, to be patient with this process and with each other as we work through things. Secondly, to abide by these guideline. Thirdly, being able to offer more Masses is dependent on people helping to sanitize their own pews after Mass, so if possible, please bring sanitizing materials with you to Mass and carefully sanitize your pew after Mass prior to leaving.