

Mass in time of Coronavirus

From Father Ousley: I am delighted and relieved to report that conditions now permit the resumption of public Masses, beginning Saturday, June 6. From that date, the usual Mass and confession schedule resumes: Sunday at 10, Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m., Wednesday at 10, Friday at noon, Saturday at 9. Confessions on Thursday at 5:30 and Sunday 9-9:45. The first public Sunday Mass will be on Trinity Sunday, June 7.

Unfortunately, this does not mean that there is no more coronavirus around. There will be some necessary adjustments to Mass in order to minimize the possibility of contagion, should an asymptomatic carrier be present. We assume and trust that anyone with any symptoms will stay home. Given current concerns about singing and the transmission of the virus, Sunday Mass will be a said Mass, without singing. Please review carefully the information given below as you decide whether to continue to shelter in place or come to Mass.

The Commutation of the Sunday Obligation remains in force (see below). The safety of those at special risk is particularly important, and they can continue to shelter in place. Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook for those who remain at home. There is also the possibility of a second Sunday Mass (Vigil on Saturday) for those over 65. Any interested in that option should let me know.

The Sunday Mass obligation is fulfilled through one of the two following pious practices:
a. Prayerful reflection upon the Sunday Scripture readings, concluding that time by the recitation of the Prayer of Humble Access or the Anima Christi; (this is fulfilled by devout participation in the live-stream of the Mass) or
b. The recitation of the Rosary as a family.

On-Site Masses

The following guidelines for the resumption of public Masses are based on (a) the current knowledge about the novel coronavirus (which is subject to constant revision), and (b) the expectation that Christians will act reasonably and prudently. Everyone is expected to act responsibly, both in deciding whether to attend Mass and in their actions while here. Christian charity and our consideration for one another is our prime motivation for accepting these guidelines.

1. If you are sick or have any symptoms, please remain at home.
2. If you have been exposed to the virus or have been around sick people, please remain at home.
3. If you are at special risk should you become sick, please remain at home.
4. If you are uncomfortable coming to Mass, please remain at home.

In church:

5. In order to maintain "distancing" every other pew will be closed off. Please leave 6 feet between families in the same pew.
6. Please do not congregate in groups at the doors, in the aisles or outside the bathroom at any time. Visiting with one another after Mass is to be done outside so that reasonable distancing can be maintained.

7. There will be no exchange of the Peace during Mass.
8. There will be no Gifts Procession.
9. Communion will be in one Kind only. Please allow space at the communion rail as in the pews. Maintain distance while in line coming to the Communion rail. The ushers will help with this. The priest will cleanse his fingers frequently during the administration of Communion.
10. On site coffee hour will resume at a later date.
11. The faithful should wear face masks. Masks must be removed by those wishing to receive Communion. Holy Communion may be received on the palm or the tongue as usual.
12. Priest and servers will not be wearing masks in the Sanctuary. Servers will not be serving if they are sick, have any symptoms, or have been exposed to someone who is sick in the last two weeks.
13. Rather than the ushers taking up the collection at the offertory, there will be baskets at the front and back of the church to receive the alms and offerings of the faithful. Likewise people can pick up the service leaflets at the doors themselves if they are uncomfortable with an usher handling the leaflet.
14. We will try to maximize air flow in the church during services, either with open windows (we'll have to put up with the street noise) or the air conditioning (which has just been serviced).
15. Ushers will be responsible for wiping down the door handles which are in use.