

Public Mass for 50 People Instructions

1 - Welcome

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to public Mass after many weeks away. If you are feeling uncomfortable or are part of an “at risk” health demographic please don’t worry about rushing back to public Masses. Bishop Thomas has extended the dispensation to the obligation to attend Mass through this period for all Catholics in our diocese, and we will continue to make the live streams available for you on our YouTube Page.

Those who feel healthy enough and desire to do so may take part in one of the public Masses we will offer during this Phase 2 reopening period.

There are going to be some different procedures as you prepare for Mass and come to the Church. These are not meant to be a hassle but are in place for your protection, the protection of your fellow parishioners, the liturgical ministers, and your priests. The purpose of this video is to walk you through these procedures and how we can help one another at this time.

2 - Preparing for Mass at Home

Remember that if you’re not feeling well or feel uncomfortable returning to Mass so soon please feel free to stay at home and watch one of our Live Stream Masses on our YouTube Channel.

If you are returning to Mass, you will need to do a couple of things before you make your way to the Church.

First you will have to register to attend one of our public Masses using the provided links on our website or by calling the Main office number. God has blessed us with a large community of over 8,000 families. With the current directives issued by our Governor we can only hold Masses with a maximum of 50 attendees (including liturgical ministers) so we are asking that those who wish to return to Mass sign-up to attend **ONLY ONE** weekday or weekend Mass during this Phase 2 period to give as many people as possible the opportunity to receive the sacraments we’ve all been thirsting for. Once phase 3 begins and we are able to accommodate more parishioners this policy will be revisited.

We really don’t want anyone to be turned away because we have no room. To avoid this, we are asking everyone to sign-up in advance. This way we can know that we will be able to accommodate the people who come to a particular Mass.

Visit our website to see the list of Masses during the Phase 2 period. Once you know which Mass you want to attend Click the link provided to take you to our registration page hosted by Eventbrite.com.

Verify that the date on the registration homepage is the date you want to attend Mass then click “Register”. Here you will be asked to select the number of people in your party. Please only include people in your household and allow people from other households to register

themselves. Once you've selected the appropriate number for your party click "Register". Here you will be asked to provide your first and last name and a valid email address for your registration. Complete the empty fields then click "Register".

Congratulations you're registered to attend Mass! You may print out your tickets from the website or your confirmation email, or have them on your smartphone when you arrive. You will need these tickets for entry into our limited seating Masses.

When it comes time for you to attend Mass there are a few things you need to remember to bring with you:

- A mask for you and all members of your household
 - Everyone over the age of 10 will be asked to wear a facemask. Parents are to use their own discretion with their younger children when it comes to facemasks.
- Your personal hand sanitizer
- Your Eventbrite tickets (printed or on your smartphone)

If you, or a member of your household, is feeling ill on the day you planned on attending Mass, we would appreciate it if you would cancel your registration to allow for another parishioner to fill your place. You can do this from your eventbrite confirmation email or by calling the main office.

3 - Arriving at Church

When you arrive at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, be sure not to park directly next to another family but utilize the breadth of our parking lot to encourage social distancing when exiting and entering your vehicles.

All staff, liturgical ministers, and parishioners are asked to practice good social distancing by staying 6 feet from one another and avoiding personal contact with parishioners from other households. We have added markers on the floors to help you do this at registration check in and during Holy Communion.

We are only utilizing the Carnegie doors for entrance into the church. Once you enter there will be a temperature check station and hand sanitizer station. Each member of your household attending Mass with you will need to have their temperature checked and sanitize their hands prior to continuing. Temperature checks can be done at one of our self check stations or if you need assistance one of our ushers can check it for you.

When you're ready to move on, have your ticket ready; you will be greeted by one of our ushers who will scan your tickets and seat you in the Nave. We will seat everyone beginning with the front pews of the Church then moving to the back so please do not ask for special seating arrangements unless you have an ADA need. We will not be able to use the cry room for seating at this time.

4 - Mass

Mass will proceed as usual with only a few exceptions:

- There will be no missalettes or music books at your seats
- The sign of peace after the Lord's prayer will be omitted
- As well as the presentation of the gifts by the faithful
- We will not pass the collection basket around, rather they will be placed in the vestibule for your appreciated donations. You can make these as you enter or exit the building. We also encourage you to make your donations online on our website or through our new GivePlus app.

5 - Communion

At Communion everyone including the priests, parishioners wishing to receive communion, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will be wearing facemasks. The ushers will help manage the communion lines and the markings on the floor will help you and your household keep a safe social distance from one another. Bishop Thomas has asked that during this health emergency all the faithful receive the Blessed Sacrament in the hand only. Allow the Minister to place the Host in your hands and do not attempt to grab the Host yourself in any way to avoid personal contact. Receive in the hands with your mask on then step to the side, lift your mask slightly and communicate yourself prior to returning to your seats.

6 - Exiting Mass

At the end of Mass, the priest will exit the Nave and all the exit doors will be opened. Please remain in your seats until an Usher has dismissed you. We ask that everyone head directly to the exterior of the Church when dismissed so we can immediately begin the cleaning and disinfecting procedure to be ready for the next Mass. Upon exiting the building please walk immediately to your vehicles to avoid any unnecessary gathering that we may maintain compliance with the policies given to us by our Governor during this stage of reopening.

7 - Thank you

I want to thank you personally for your cooperation and so much love and support we've received during this tumultuous time. We have been praying fervently for you and have been anxiously awaiting this opportunity to see you in person again. We know that these extra things that we are all doing are foreign to us, but they really are necessary for the safety and comfort of all our parishioners, priests, staff, and volunteers. Thank you and God bless you.