



St. Raphael the Archangel Parish  
St. Louis, MO

Guidelines for Resumption of Public Masses (Effective May 18, 2020)

*Who May Come to Mass?*

- The dispensation of the obligation to attend Mass is extended to the faithful until further notice on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Anyone who is symptomatic of any of the symptoms of the Coronavirus or anyone who has been exposed to the Coronavirus within 14 days of that exposure are not allowed to attend Mass.
  - As a fever is a common symptom of the virus, anyone coming to church is asked to check their temperature before coming to Mass. If you are running a temperature, even if it is slight, you are asked not to come to Mass.
- Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are over 60 are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Mass.

*What to Bring When You Come to Mass*

- Everyone over the age of two years old entering the church must wear a face mask when entering the church. Depending on supplies, the church may have a limited supply of face masks for people to use, but please do not depend on these unless it is an absolute necessity.
- All hymnals and *Pray Together* Missalettes will be removed from the church. Anyone wanting a *Pray Together* for their private use during this time is encouraged to visit the parish office and pick one up. Otherwise, you may bring another resource to follow along with the Mass.

*Number of People Allowed in Church*

- Our maximum seating for Mass will be 170 people. Once we reach that capacity, people will be asked to come back at a different time for Mass.

*Mass Schedule During this Time*

- Monday-Saturday 7:00am (all of these will be livestreamed)
- Saturday Evening: 4:30pm (will have music and will be livestreamed)
- Sunday Morning: 8:00am (livestreamed), 10:00am (music), 12:00pm

### *Procedure for Entering the Church for Mass*

- The entrance on Highfield will be opened and left propped open a half-hour before the start of the Mass. All other doors will remain closed and people directed to use only the Highfield doors. If capacity is reached, these doors will be closed and people asked to come to a different Mass.
- Congregants should enter the church masked and immediately find an unoccupied pew that is not closed or “roped off” to maintain social distancing requirements.
- Once a pew is occupied by a congregant or by one household, you are asked not to sit in that pew at all, even if the other end of the pew is open.
- Once you are in the pew, you may remove your mask if you so choose.
- The cry room is not to be used except if someone needs to use the restroom that is located there.

### *Procedures for Mass*

- The celebrant for Mass will enter from the sacristy for all Masses, including all Sunday Masses to conform with social distancing guidelines.
- At the Sunday Masses, collecting the Sunday offertory via the baskets is suspended as well as the need for gift bearers. A basket will be placed at the Highfield door and you are asked to make your offering as you enter church. The ushers will secure the collection before Mass begins.
- The Sign of Peace remains suspended.
- If you need to leave your pew for any reason during Mass, including to receive Holy Communion, please put your mask back on if you have removed it during Mass.

### *Procedure for Holy Communion*

- *General Comments*
  - There will be three stations for communion. One will be stationed in the center aisle, one will be stationed at the communion rail gate on the cry room side and one at the communion rail gate on the choir side of the church.
  - Distribution of Communion via the Chalice remains suspended until further notice.
  - All communion lines MUST be single file with 6 feet of distance in between one another.
- *For Weekday Masses*
  - When the Ministers of Communion are in position, the left hand bank of pews will receive first in each section. The persons seated on this side should come up to receive single file, remaining six feet apart in line. After all persons have received on the left side, the first pew on the right side may come forward to receive. The right side should follow the same procedure as the left side until everyone has received.

- When coming forward, all communicants must be masked. After receiving the Body of Christ, you may step to the designated spot, momentarily pull your mask down to receive, and then replace your mask immediately before returning to your pew.
- When coming forward, all communicants must remain six feet apart. Please follow the spaces marked on the carpet and/or pews. When in doubt, wait in your pew for a minute before stepping into the aisle.
- This is a direct quote from the Archdiocesan Guidelines, “Communicants are to receive the Host in the hand, in keeping with the advice of state health officials and thereby to avoid the Communion minister’s fingers coming into contact with saliva or particles exhaled from the communicants’ mouth onto the ministers’ fingers.” Persons who are uncomfortable receiving in the hand are asked to continue to make a spiritual communion.
- *For the Weekend Masses*
  - When the Ministers of Communion are in position, the left hand bank of pews will receive first in each section. The persons seated on this side should come up to receive single file, remaining six feet apart in line. After all persons have received on the left side, the first pew on the right side may come forward to receive. The right side should follow the same procedure as the left side until everyone has received. The ushers are asked to help facilitate this flow at these Masses.
  - When coming forward, all communicants must be masked. After receiving the Body of Christ, you may step to the designated spot, momentarily pull your mask down to receive, and then replace your mask immediately before returning to your pew.
  - When coming forward, all communicants must remain six feet apart. Please follow the spaces marked on the carpet and/or pews. When in doubt, wait in your pew for a minute before stepping into the aisle.
  - This is a direct quote from the Archdiocesan Guidelines, “Communicants are to receive the Host in the hand, in keeping with the advice of state health officials and thereby to avoid the Communion minister’s fingers coming into contact with saliva or particles exhaled from the communicants’ mouth onto the ministers’ fingers.” Persons who are uncomfortable receiving in the hand are asked to continue to make a spiritual communion.

#### *Procedure for the End of Mass*

- At the conclusion of Mass, the celebrant will return to the sacristy. Per Archdiocesan guidelines, he is not allowed to greet people after Mass. Anyone wanting to speak to Fr. John or to Msgr. Stehly are encouraged to contact them via e-mail or phone for an appointment.
- Once Mass is over, a dismissal procedure will be used:
  - All persons are asked to exit only through the Jamieson entrance. These doors are to be propped open by ushers at the conclusion of Mass.

- Persons sitting in the main body of church should proceed directly out of the church single file line maintaining 6ft. distancing. They are to exit through the center doors of the church.
- Those on the wings of the church are to exit single file while maintaining 6ft distancing via the side aisles and side doors of the Jamieson entrance.
- Please do not congregate outside or on the parking lot but immediately return to your vehicle.
- All persons are asked to leave promptly, as the church needs to be completely sanitized before the next Mass.

### *Considerations for Ministers*

- Cantors- may resume ministering as they are comfortable. They should wear a facemask while walking to and away from the ambo.
- Choir-Please talk to Ray and Mary Anne Braun for further direction.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion-may resume ministering only at Mass as needed. Please see Monsignor Stehly or Father John if you are interested in ministering.
- Lectors-may resume ministering as they are comfortable. They should wear a facemask while walking to and away from the ambo.
- Ushers-we will be needing ushers to supervise the entrance of people as they come into church. If we reach capacity, they will need to stand outside and ask people to come to another Mass. Ushers should make sure the collection is secure as Mass begins as well. Also, ushers can help with traffic flow at Holy Communion time and to help with traffic flow at dismissal time.
- Servers-We ask if a server wishes to participate in Mass that they be the “bell server.” We will leave the bells on the server stool before Mass begins. If a server would like, they are to, while masked, get the bells and a pair of gloves, and take them to their family’s pew. At the appropriate times only, you may ring the bells as if you were serving Mass. Parents are asked to help supervise to ensure the bells are rung only when needed. After Mass, please replace the bells on the server’s stool and dispose of the gloves.
- Church Cleaners- We will be using a signup genius to ask for a couple of volunteers to assist the priests in cleaning the church after each Mass. Please bring your own mask; everything else you need will be provided for you.

### *Final Notes*

- All congregants are asked to follow all of these guidelines at all times. Intentional disregard for them or refusal to act in accordance with them may result in your being asked to leave the church immediately, even during the celebration of Mass.
- Public celebration of Mass may be suspended again with little notice. Please continue to monitor your e-mail and all notices on the church doors for updates.