



Santa Cruz Roman Catholic Parish

Discalced Carmelite Friars

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Pentecost 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is with great joy and thankfulness to Our Lord and His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, that Santa Cruz Parish has received permission from Bishop Weisenburger to re-open for public Masses beginning the weekend of Pentecost May 29-31. Following the guidelines of the Diocese of Tucson this letter outlines the protocols and the procedures Santa Cruz Parish is taking to ensure reasonable safety of all parishioners and visitors. Please know that there is an inherent risk, regardless of age or health, in attending Mass at Santa Cruz. Therefore **Bishop Weisenburger has suspended indefinitely the Sunday Mass Obligation** for all persons living in or visiting in the Tucson Diocese. A parishioner's presence at a public event constitutes his or her understanding and acceptance of this essential level of risk. Those in the vulnerable classifications (age 65+ or with a chronic health condition) are strongly urged to remain at home and not come to church for any reason.

1. Safety Protocols at Santa Cruz Church Property:

- Social Distancing: every other pew is taped off for spacing the congregation and those attending Mass will be seated a minimum of 6 feet apart. Families may sit together at specially designated pews.
- Ushers will be trained regarding proper safety protocols.
- We will provide Ushers with masks, gloves and hand sanitizer at each Mass.
- Ushers will escort attendees to available seating areas.
- The front entrance double door (6th Ave.) will be used as the only entry point; maximum attendance will be 75; signage will be placed outside advising attendees when church is full; attendees will exit through the two doors leading to the church patio.
- All missalettes and literature have been removed from the pews.
- Public information posters in English and Spanish with CDC guidelines will be displayed at the doors and inside the church.
- Two baskets will be placed in a convenient and safe place for the offerings (collection) of the faithful. The offering will be taken to the sacristy by two ushers and put in the safe.
- Holy Communion will take place in the church patio following the final blessing and dismissal from Mass. Ministers of the Holy Communion are to carefully wash their hands and to frequently use a hand-sanitizer after every few Holy Communions.
- We have scheduled six indoor Masses during the weekend, i.e. Friday evening to Monday evening. Two additional Masses will be celebrated outdoors. Please see the Mass schedule on the reverse side of this letter.
- After each Mass, designated volunteers will disinfect all restrooms, fixtures, faucets, handles, door frames, handles, disinfect kneelers, floor... etc.
- The church doors will remain open during the celebration to allow proper ventilation during the Mass.
- At the end of each Mass, the church doors will be locked while ushers are cleaning and disinfecting the church for the next scheduled service.

2. During the Liturgy of the Mass:

- Social distancing will be kept by the ministers in the sanctuary area.
- The ministers will process in from the sacristy and into the sanctuary at the beginning of the Mass. All ministers serving at Mass must wear face masks. The priest is not required to wear a mask while celebrating the Mass.
- We are not using altar server children at the Masses, during Phase One.
- The processional Cross with candles will not be used.

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- Eucharistic ministers and lectors will not be allowed to remain in the sacristy before the beginning of the Mass.
- Hand sanitizer and soap will be available to be frequently used by the liturgical Ministers.
- There will be no shaking of hands as sign of peace or holding hands at the “Our Father.”
- Holy Communion will be received only in the hand during this first phase of reopening the church. (Communicants will not receive the Precious Blood.)
- Sacred vessels will be washed with soap in hot water after each Mass.
- The chairs used by the liturgical ministers will also be disinfected after each Mass.

3. Safety and Flexibility:

- The primary concern of Santa Cruz Church is the health and safety of all who come to this parish to pray and attend Mass or for any other legitimate purpose. The safety of the priests and staff is also of paramount concern. These policies and procedures will be updated to meet the latest instructions from Bishop Weisenburger. We will continue to monitor directives and communications from the Diocese. Please check the parish website for the latest information.

Si necesita esta información en español, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial.



Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.

The weekend schedule is as follows:

Friday:

Bilingual Mass inside the church at 7pm for the healthy 65+ who are willing to attend Mass. (We encourage those under 65 to attend one of the other Masses offered over the extended weekend.)

Saturday:

Mass in English at 5:30pm inside the church
Bi-lingual Mass at 7pm at the Capilla de Guadalupe at 401 E. 31st Street.

Sunday:

Mass in English at 6:30am inside the church
Mass in English at 9am in the school yard (**You must bring your own chair**)
Mass in English at 11am will be live-stream from inside the church with no attendance
Mass at 5:30pm in Spanish in the school field
Mass in English at 6pm inside the church

Monday:

Bi-lingual 7pm Mass inside the church.

*Don't forget to sign up for Flock Notes: Text **santacruzaz** to **84576** or go online to **santacruzchurch.flocknote.com**

*No se les olvide registrarse para nuestro Flock Notes: Envía la clave **santacruzaz** por texto al número **84576** o vaya al sitio web a **santacruzchurch.flocknote.com**