

**Guidelines for Public Mass during Time of Pandemic**  
**Rev. John G. McDonald**

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

In these days of pandemic, we are called upon by God to exercise special charity and concern in many ways as we make progress through this difficult moment for faithful people throughout the world. Worshipping the Almighty God who made the heavens and the earth and all they contain is the most noble act the human person can offer. Our Lord Jesus healed the sick and consoled the sorrowing, and He has brought us joy and fulfillment in His most divine presence in the Eucharist.

As a community of faith, our love and concern for one another and for our larger community is shown through the care and diligence we show in protecting one another from disease and infection. Our community leaders have come together to work out some rules for us all to follow so that we can worship together safely and securely. We will have to be strict in observing these guidelines in order to show our love for one another, so please understand that everyone who comes to Mass is expected to follow the rules you find below.

- Everyone present at Mass will be requested to wear a facemask, from 2 years old upward.
- Gloves may be worn, BUT NOT FOR RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer for use before receiving Holy Communion.
- The Cry Room will be CLOSED.
- Please pick up your BULLETIN upon entering church, as it will have a worship aid inside with music for the Mass.
- The missalettes will be taken out of the pews, and families are encouraged to take the missalettes home (one per family please) and use them in order to prepare for Mass.
- NEW MASS SCHEDULE
  - Saturday
    - Confessions – 3:30pm to 4:30pm
    - Mass – FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND IMMUNE COMPROMISED PARISHIONERS ONLY – 5pm
  - Sunday
    - Mass – 9am – English
    - Mass – 11am – English – Choir
    - Misa – 1pm – Español
    - Misa - 4pm – Español
- Upon entering the church:
  - Seating – Because social distancing is essential to the health and well being of all, it is important to be seated according to the plan worked out by the parish. This may mean that you cannot sit where you normally sit, so your understanding in this will be required.

- Ushers will seat all Worshipers.
  - Families will be seated together in pews.
  - Singles and couples will be seated first in the narthex, then in auxiliary seating.
  - Couples have the option to sit at the end of the pew, keeping a 6 ft. distance from others in the pew.
- Offertory
  - Our ushers will use baskets with handles – don't pass baskets hand to hand.
  - The ushers bring forth the collection for a blessing at the offertory.
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
  - Please, there will be no holding hands at the Our Father...
  - There will be no physical exchange of the Sign of Peace
- Communion Rite
  - At Holy Communion, the ushers will dismiss the rows to communion.
  - It is requested that you please receive Our Lord carefully in the hand, consume the Body of Christ, and return to your seat.
- A thanksgiving prayer after mass will be said by Father at the foot of the altar.
- Dismissal
  - After Mass, everyone must be dismissed in order to begin cleaning the Church for the next Mass.
  - Dismissal will be done by zones and rows
  - Ushers will lead dismissal.
  - The chapel zone will exit through the cry room door.
  - The Pieta zone will exit through the Pieta door.

Please do not gather outside the doorways upon leaving, but it is acceptable to greet and converse with our fellow parishioners using facemasks and keeping a proper distance to respect all.
- Please don't enter the sacristy!
- BATHROOMS
  - Please make every effort to use bathroom before coming to Mass.
  - In emergencies, the bathroom will be open, but it cannot be sanitized between each use, so it must be used at one's own risk.

In advance, I want to thank all of you for your kindness and cooperation with these guidelines in this strange and difficult time. Our way forward is always the way of charity and sacrifice, as Our Lord Jesus teaches us. Praying together with the Sacraments of the Church will heal us all and destroy the power of the Evil One in this world. I owe a great deal of gratitude to this loving and dedicated Catholic community – together we move forward in Christ our Lord!

In His Most Sacred Heart,

Fr. John