

Beginning this weekend, June 6/7, *ST. MARK* will reopen for public Masses under new restrictions and with a new temporary schedule. As we move forward with the re-opening, please know that the Parish Staff is doing everything possible to create a safe environment for everyone. Bishop Burbidge has dispensed all Catholics from the obligation to participate at Sunday Mass until further notice, so please take your health and the health of those in your family into account before deciding to attend Mass.

During Phase 1, our schedule is as follows:

Saturday – 5:30 PM (public Mass in Church) **LIMIT 200 PEOPLE**

Sunday – 9:30 AM (private live-stream Mass in Chapel)

Sunday – 11:00 AM (public Communion Service in parking lot)

Please note that the Church will remain locked during the live-stream Mass, but will reopen directly following. As usual, the live-stream Mass will be recorded and made available online for those who wish to view it at a later time.

Also available is Daily Mass in the Church, Monday–Friday at 9:15 AM, Monday at 7:30 PM, Friday at 6:15 AM, and Saturday at 8:00 AM.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

If you have symptoms of a fever, etc., or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are in current quarantine, please do not come to Church.

The Bishop has respectfully **required** all parishioners to wear a face covering or face mask at all times when on the parish premises. The face covering may only be removed when consuming the Host.

To ensure everyone’s safety and cooperation with social distancing, we will limit the number of people allowed into the 5:30 PM Saturday Mass to 200 people. Admittance will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

In order to minimize contact and limit the risk of exposure, we will use as few Liturgical Ministers as possible and there will be no singing of any kind in Phase 1. Instrumental music will underpin the liturgical action and provide a sacred, prayerful atmosphere.

ENTERING/SEATING

Hand sanitizer will be available for use while entering and exiting the Church. Doors will be propped open as much as possible. The Holy Water Fonts will be empty.

Ushers will be inside the doors on either end of the Narthex (vestibule) to admit you, and you will be escorted into the Church. Please follow the directions of the Ushers. Unfortunately, there can be no stopping and talking, gathering, nor standing in the Narthex of the Church.

People will only be able to sit in every third pew. The “off-limits” pews will be roped off. The usher will attempt to seat you in your preferred place, but please understand if this may not be possible. Household units may sit together; otherwise, you must maintain physical distancing of 6 feet between you and the next person in your pew. Please cooperate with the directives of the Ushers.

OFFERTORY

According to Diocesan Directives and in order to minimize contact with the bread, there will not be a Presentation of the Gifts or a formal collection. There will be collection baskets as you enter and exit the Church into which you may place your weekly Offertory gift. Thank you for your continued support of *ST. MARK!*

COMMUNION

Clergy (a priest or deacon) will be the Ministers for Holy Communion. We will be following Diocesan Directives on reception of Holy Communion. You may receive in either the hand or on the tongue. However, Diocesan Directives ask that you prayerfully consider temporarily receiving Holy Communion in the hand. If you do receive on the tongue and there is contact with the Minister’s hand, then the Minister will need to pause and perform a hand sanitization, before continuing to distribute Communion to the next person.

It is not permitted to receive Communion in the hand while wearing gloves. If you are wearing gloves and will receive Communion in the hand, please remove your gloves for the reception of Communion.

There will only be one Minister at the front of a section, and we will distribute section-by-section, pew-by-pew. Please follow the directions of the Clergy and Ushers and maintain physical distancing while in line.

When it is your turn to receive Communion, stand on the “X” taped on the floor, 6 feet away from the Minister. The Minister will say, “The Body of Christ.” and you respond, “Amen.” Then proceed in front of the Minister. If you receive in the hand, the Minister will place the Host in your hand. Move one step to the side, lower your mask, and consume the Host. Then move your mask back into position and return to your pew.

If you receive on the tongue, you will say the response, as above, while 6 feet away from the Minister. Then proceed in front of the Minister. Lower your mask so that the Minister may place the Host on your tongue. Consume the Host, move your mask back into position, and return to your pew.

Low-gluten Host will be available.

EXIT/CLEANING

After the Final Blessing, you will be dismissed. Due to our need to start cleaning in the Church immediately after Mass, you will not have the opportunity to pray in the Church or socialize in

the Narthex. While dismissing, please follow physical distancing of 6 feet. We will dismiss by section. Please keep your mask on until you are in the parking lot and away from others. Again, please follow the directions of the Ushers.

All pews, surfaces, door handles, and restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned following Mass.

Out of concern for everyone's health and safety, we ask that you comply with these guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Parish Office or email Laura Cooman at lcooman@stmark.org. Thank you!

Additionally, if you are able to volunteer to help as an Usher or cleaner, please contact the Parish Office. We need as many people as possible to help us maintain a welcoming but safe environment.

We look forward to welcoming you back to *ST. MARK* for Mass!