

Saint Therese Parish
Mandatory Mass Guidelines & Policies
Beginning June 8, 2020



The following health & safety precautions will remain in place until further notice. Please, if you have a fever, a compromised immune system due to a medical condition/medication, or exhibit any suspect symptoms, *please stay home* for your own safety and that of your Parish!

GENERAL:

- ❖ All Sacraments/celebrations will be conducted in the Church
- ❖ Social distancing guidelines of six (6) feet between families or individuals must be maintained
- ❖ Access to the Church will be via the front doors only, side doors will remain locked
- ❖ Masks (covering both the mouth and nose) must be worn throughout any service
- ❖ Temperatures will be taken of each attendee upon entering the Church
- ❖ Parishioners should bring own antiseptic lotion for use
- ❖ Holy water fonts will remain empty
- ❖ Church seating allowed only in the two center sections of the Church, using every other pew as marked
- ❖ Parishioners are encouraged to restrict attendance to no more than once each week
- ❖ Use of the Children's Chapel is not allowed
- ❖ Bathrooms will not be accessible
- ❖ A basket for contribution envelopes will be in the front vestibule
 - Financial support by parishioners who do not attend Mass continues to be encouraged and welcomed! Please avail yourselves of our on-line giving program OR by mailing contribution envelopes to the Parish Office

❖ **CONFESSIONS**

- Confessions will be heard Saturdays from 3pm to 4pm.
- Church entrance to be only via front doors
 - Masks are required throughout the sacrament
- Parishioners must wait in their cars; they may enter the Church only when someone exits
- Father and Penitent will be only people in the Front Vestibule.
 - Penitent will be required to stand throughout the Sacrament
- Any penance received must be fulfilled outside the Church

❖ **MASSES**

- Parishioners must call the Parish Office to register themselves and/or their family's attendance
 - Only those who register will be allowed in the building
 - "People-counter" volunteers will be at the door to verify registration and safety precautions observed
- No-contact exchanges allowed during sign of peace or joining of hands during the "Our Father"
- Missals and response cards will not be used
- Singing by congregation is not allowed
- Exiting the Church will be done maintaining safe distancing (pew-by-pew) starting at the back of the Church
- After Mass, there is to be no social gathering either in the Church Sanctuary or parking lots

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❖ **RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

- Gloves are not allowed to be worn to receive the Holy Eucharist
- Parishioners are to process to the Altar via the center aisle of the Church, single file only
 - Parishioners are to file into center aisle pew-by-pew, and must maintain social distancing
 - All those not intending to receive Eucharist should still exit pews in order to discourage the need to climb over others
 - Those not receiving Eucharist may proceed to the altar with their arms crossed over their chest to receive a no-contact blessing from Father
 - Communicants should approach Father with hands extended for reception of Holy Eucharist
 - Communicants should stand on the brown diamond square tile in front of Father and will receive Eucharist via hand
 - Once Eucharist is given to communicant, they should step to the side
 - Facing the altar, Communicant may uncover their mouth to consume the Consecrated Host
 - Mask must be re-adjusted immediately after consuming Eucharist, and prior to proceeding to original seat
- Communicants should return to their seat by going around the front pew to the side aisles

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION:

- ✦ Parish staff will be available mornings to provide assistance and take reservations
 - Parishioners are encouraged to use email (DHKCHURCH@GMAIL.COM) for general questions
- ✦ In the event it is thought necessary to visit the Parish Office, a mask must be worn and social distancing as well as other safety precautions must be observed
- ✦ Procedures for cleaning all areas used (Church, Parish Center, etc.) have been developed. If you would like to volunteer to assist with this cleaning, have any questions concerning anything presented in this letter, please email Deborah in the Parish Office (DHKCHURCH@GMAIL.COM) for more information.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Our hope is that by implementing these guidelines and procedures and ensuring they are followed, we will be able to limit everyone's exposure and restrict the possibility of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

Thank you. Stay safe & God bless.

Fr. Carlos & Deborah