

Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, has granted permission to begin the reopening of public Masses. However, **there is no obligation to attend Mass in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston until further notice** and all the faithful, particularly those 60 and older and those with underlying health issues, are strongly encouraged to remain at home at this time. Of course, anyone who is showing any symptom of illness should remain in quarantine.

While masses will not be as we have known them, our primary objective is to accommodate as many as possible to attend and receive the Eucharist. To accomplish this, we will offer mass Tuesday through Friday at 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Anointing of the sick will follow the 11:30 a.m. mass on each of these days. Mass will also be offered on both Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2 p.m. (Spanish). This schedule will begin on Saturday, May 9, and will be assessed on a weekly basis to determine its effectiveness.

There will be many **new protocols that all parishioners must follow to attend Mass** in order to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our St. Anne Community. If you would like to attend Mass, please review these procedures and agree to abide by them. If you are not able to follow these guidelines, we kindly ask that you forego the invitation to attend Mass until such time that the current health crisis changes or is resolved.

Capacity Seating

- For now, Masses will be limited to 25% capacity across the Archdiocese per Governor Abbott. For St. Anne, that equates to seating for 93 per Mass in our main sanctuary.
- The Parish Hall can seat an additional 20 for streaming from the Sanctuary and will be utilized only after the main Sanctuary is at maximum capacity.
- Considering these numbers, we ask that Parishioners attend only one Mass per week in order to give as many families as possible the opportunity to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. Please be generous of spirit and considerate of your fellow parishioners.

Before Leaving Home

- Have each member of your household go to the restroom. After entering, you are asked not to leave the sanctuary to go to the restroom if at all possible. Safe re-entry will be difficult to manage and thereby distracting to others.
- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- For ages 9 and up, **bring face coverings (nose and mouth) as they are required on our campus for the duration of Mass.**

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- Bring your own hand sanitizer that can be used before receiving Holy Communion. **DO NOT** bring items that contain bleach into the sanctuary as this will damage the pews.

Arrival Procedures

- Masks (for ages 9+) should be worn as soon as you exit your vehicle. Per guidelines, children under 9 years of age are not **required** to wear masks, but this is, of course, at the discretion of parents.
- You can begin to stand in line 30 minutes before mass time, observing 6 ft. social distancing between household units. The main doors of the church will open 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. All entrance will be through the front doors (Narthex).
- Receive hand sanitizer dispensed by Hospitality Ministers at the door of the church.
- Hospitality Ministers will seat your household. In order to seat everyone in an orderly and timely fashion, there will be no choice of seating. Please cooperate and sit where you are directed. This includes not being allowed to remain at the end of the pew.
- Pews will be filled from front to back by section.
- Every other pew will be closed.
- You may be sharing a pew with another household, but social distance (6 ft.) is required between households.
- There will be no seating in the Corpus Christi Chapel (cry room), North Loft, or Narthex. The South loft will be utilized only after the main floor of the sanctuary is filled to capacity.
- Once capacity for safe seating has been reached, no one else can be admitted. With the unknown variable of the number attending from each household, it is virtually impossible to know the exact number that will be admitted. We apologize, but this is beyond our control. We ask for your patience and understanding if you are required to attend another mass.
- The holy water fonts remain empty.

Mass Procedures

- Masses will be conducted with brevity. The Holy Eucharist is the centrality of the Mass.
- Sacristans and Lectors will be the only Liturgical Ministers participating in the Mass other than Fr. Tommy. There will be no altar servers or music. We rejoice in simply hearing the Word of God and receiving the Holy Eucharist.
- Face coverings must be in place for the duration of Mass (for ages 9+).
- There is to be no physical contact between households at the Sign of Peace nor hand holding during the Lord's Prayer.

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- Baskets will not be passed during the offertory. You are asked to place your weekly gift in the metal boxes as you exit the church. We strongly encourage online giving through <https://stanne-tomball.wehareonline.org>.

Communion Procedures

- Cardinal DiNardo has mandated that communion not be offered on the tongue under any circumstance and has instructed that only priests distribute the Eucharist for the time being.
- The precious blood will not be offered.
- Use of personal hand sanitizer before communion is strongly encouraged (provide your own).
- There will be a single communion line in the center aisle. Once the center sections have been served, Fr. Tommy will move to side sections of the church. Please remain in your pew and be attentive and co-operative with Hospitality Ministers as they direct 'traffic.'
- Masks should be worn in the communion line. After the priest offers you communion, please step to the side to the box marked on the floor, remove your mask, consume the Eucharist, and then re-mask as you return to your pew.

Departure Procedures

- After the final blessing, parishioners must remain in their pew.
- Pews will be dismissed in an orderly fashion from back to front within each section. Please maintain 6 ft. social distancing as you leave.
- You must exit your pew when prompted. In order to allow the church to be reset for the next Mass, private prayer is not available after the first weekday mass of the day nor after weekend Masses.
- All exits of the church will be utilized during departure. Please drop your weekly offertory as you leave.
- Please do not congregate outside but head directly to your vehicle to allow the next Mass to start on time. We are not able to safely socialize at this time.

Church Cleaning Procedures

- We will continue to implement cleanliness and sanitization practices, including disinfecting pews between every Mass. We appreciate the help of those who are able to assist with this process.
- Disinfecting of bathrooms, door handles, and other frequently touched surfaces will occur throughout the day.

Other Notables

- Confessions will be heard Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., beginning Tuesday, May 12th.
- Private prayer in the church is available Tuesday – Friday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., beginning Tuesday, May 12th.
- All other campus activities remain suspended until further notice.

You are reminded to follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health and the health of others. If you fall into an "at risk" category, please continue to stay home and participate in a Live Stream Mass (see www.archgh.org).

We apologize if these conditions and requirements seem harsh; they are to abide with the directives of the Archdiocese for the continued safety and wellbeing of our Catholic Communities as we combat COVID19. Thank you for your patience and compliance.

