



**Diocesan / Parish Restrictions & General Information
which affect the
Parishioners of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
for the
Resumption of Public Celebration of Masses and Reception of the Sacraments
(beginning May 16th, 2020)**

Guidelines, Requirements & Restrictions:

• ***Daily / Weekend Masses***

- The following information / guidelines, requirements and restrictions will, for the most part, apply to all Masses and times of gathered or personal prayer.
- However, the greatest impact will be noticed and felt during weekend Masses when, it is expected, that there will be more people within the Church.
- It is important that everyone take responsibility for themselves and their families with respect to following the guidelines, requirements and restrictions. Active and full enforcement by the Priests, Parish Staff or Volunteers is neither practical nor possible.

• ***Changes, permanent and temporary, you will notice in and around the Church:***

- Courtyard Lighting – We have new lighting! You will notice in the courtyard near each of the main trees, there is new inset lighting. Although these fixtures are meant to be sturdy, it is best to ensure that the children avoid walking or running over them.
- Water damaged back left wall and Station – has been repaired.
- Bookstore – is permanently closed. Due to increasing financial difficulties, in a tough market, made worse by current situation... and the Parish is no longer able to subsidize the losses. (see FAQs section for more information)
- Holy Water Fonts – remain temporarily empty. You are encouraged, while making the sign of the Cross, to recall to mind your baptism which enables you to fully participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
- Hymnals / Worship Aides / Envelopes – temporarily removed as a precautionary measure
- Music at Mass
 - We will temporarily not have choirs sing.
 - There will be no Organ during the 8 am Sunday, Noon Sunday and 2 pm Spanish Mass
- Confessionals – Face to Face side of the two confessionals are closed.
- Church floor and doors – You will find signs on doors and markers on the floors, directing the flow of your movement, particularly for entry to and exit from the Church as well as for Confession.

• ***Physical distancing will limit available seating for Mass:***

- You will find that every other pew is closed off to seating. Please do not sit in these areas.
- Due to the various reasons that motivate people to attend Mass at the Basilica, and due to our demographic of people attending Mass at the Basilica, we are unsure at this time exactly what measures to take in order to meet the general guidelines for a gathering of this kind.
- Ushers will be keeping track of the number of people present for Mass.
- We are trying to create an 'overflow' area in the Parish Hall. (This will depend on our ability to overcome technical issues)

- Unfortunately, by ensuring everyone has at least some opportunity for attending Mass, no one should expect to be able to attend Mass with guaranteed regularity.
 - At any time, if we find we are unable to ensure 'safe distancing', the Ushers will take measures to restrict others from entering.
 - If we find that 'too many people' desire to worship at the Basilica at one time, we will have to limit attendance to 'active-registered' parishioners.
 - If we find that 'too many' parishioners desire to worship at the Basilica at one time, we will have to begin a kind of 'lottery' or other system to control numbers of people at Mass.

- **Mass Attendance:**
 - A general dispensation from Sunday Mass remains in effect. Bishop Estévez has indefinitely dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.
 - Those who are most at risk of serious infection or illness, as well as their caregivers, are strongly encouraged to stay home and participate in live-streamed or televised Masses.
 - The risk of the coronavirus is still very real, and even with the best health practices and strict physical distancing in place, anyone attending public events, such as the Mass, is increasing their risk of exposure to COVID- 19.

- **Mask, Gloves & personal 'disinfecting items':**
 - The faithful are required to bring and wear a mask or suitable face covering in order to attend Mass. The parish is not able to provide these to parishioners / visitors.
 - The Mask or face covering must be worn at all times, except at the moment of consuming Holy Communion.
 - You will find hand sanitizer at each of the three main entrances to the parish.
 - You will also find wipes in the confessional to 'wipe down' the area directly in front of you.
 - Gloves are optional however they must be removed to receive Holy Communion.
 - You are encouraged to have with you, your own supply of disinfecting items.

- **Entering / Exiting the Church:**
 - When entering / exiting the Church you will notice 'guide markers' on the floor to help you.
 - When entering / exiting the Church the Ushers / Welcome Ministry will aide everyone in safe and organized movement. Please cooperate with their directions and thank them for their help.
 - When entering / exiting the Church it is important that there be an even movement of people who are providing for a safe distance between each person.
 - When entering through the front Main doors
 - You are directed to turn right or left and enter the Church through the interior side doors.
 - You are then directed to continue forward to find your seat by traversing the side aisle.
 - The center aisle is reserved for the movement of those going to confession.
 - When entering through the front 'Brides Room' doors
 - You are directed to turn to right into the Foyer, then left and enter the Church through the interior side door.
 - You are then directed to continue forward to find your seat by traversing the side aisle.
 - The center aisle is reserved for the movement of those going to confession.
 - When exiting the Church
 - Those sitting closest to the side exterior doors are encouraged to exit by those doors nearest to them.
 - Those sitting on the courtyard side of the Church who will be exiting through the front exterior doors, please exit through the center interior doors only and continue straight out through the main exterior front doors.
 - Those sitting on the Ocean St. side of the Church who will be exiting through the front exterior doors, please exit your pew on the side aisle and proceed to the side interior door and then straight to the 'Brides Room' exterior doors.
 - When entering through either of the exterior side doors

- Please go to the side aisles first in order to find your seat.
 - The center aisle is reserved for the movement of those going to confession.
- **Seating:**
 - Every other pew in the Church will be blocked. Please do not sit in these pews.
 - Families or persons who are living in the same household may sit together in one pew.
 - Persons who are not related or living in the same household are asked to leave approx. 6 feet between each other.
- **Confession:**
 - There will be no 'face to face' confessions. Entry to that side of the confessional will be blocked.
 - The center aisle will be reserved for use by those persons seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - The side aisles will be blocked, for the safe movement of those entering the Church.
 - Please line up for confession at the marked points on the floor.
 - When you have completed your confession
 - Please take a moment to use the sanitary wipes provided, or your own, to wipe the area immediately in front of your face and any area which your hands may have touched.
 - Please return to your pew by the side aisles, follow the red arrows.
- **Collection:**
 - Passing collection baskets among the parishioners will be temporarily suspended.
 - We will temporarily return to the use of 'basket on poles'
 - You may prefer to take advantage of the gold receptacle at the front entrance to the Church, where you are able to leave your 1st and 2nd collection offering, as you enter or leave the Church.
 - You may prefer to take advantage of the collection boxes at the two side entrances to the Church, where you are able to leave your 1st and 2nd collection offering as you enter or leave the Church.
 - You are also encouraged to continue to mail in your 1st and 2nd collection offering.
 - You are also encouraged to utilize any of the 3 online ways of making your contribution for the 1st and 2nd collection offering. (eGive, Facebook, PayPal). All of these are readily accessible through the parish website.
- **Offertory:**
 - The practice of parishioners bringing up the gifts to be received by the Priest Celebrant, is temporarily suspended.
 - The gifts for the Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Mass will be reserved in the Sanctuary.
- **Lord's Prayer:**
 - Although many people do enjoy joining hands for praying together the Our Father, this has never been a normative practice in the Catholic Church.
 - Especially under current circumstances, joining hands for the Lord's Prayer is prohibited.
- **Sign of Peace:**
 - Although it is the norm to exchange a sign of peace during the Liturgy, it is an optional action.
 - The 'Sign of Peace' will be temporarily suspended.
 - You are encouraged, as you prepare for the Mass, to pray for peace and to ensure you are 'at peace' with those you are with.
- **Holy Communion:**
 - Ushers / Welcome Guides will help us to control the flow for Holy Communion.
 - The Priest / Deacon / EMOHC will move down the center aisle, one on each side in a staggered fashion.
 - Everyone will move along their pew to the center aisle.
 - One row of pews at a time will go to receive Holy Communion.

- You will come forward to exit the pew as per normal, at the center aisle you will receive Holy Communion, then turn toward the Sanctuary go forward and around back to your pew.
- Please remove gloves and masks as you approach to receive Holy Communion.
- In order to ensure safe and orderly movement, all persons in the pew must come to the center aisle. Those who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to cross their arms and receive a blessing or cross their arms and continue moving along with the other communicants.
- While moving along the pew to the center aisle, please maintain 'safe distancing' practices.
- As is the norm at the Basilica already, Holy Communion will only be distributed in the form of the host.
 - Out of care and concern for ministers and communicants, the reception of holy Communion on the tongue is temporarily suspended during this difficult time.
 - Those who, for reasons of their own, do not find it acceptable to receive Holy Communion on the hand, are encouraged to maintain a 'Eucharistic Fast' and refrain from receiving, out of an abundance of caution and concern for others who are present.
 - Masks or suitable face coverings must be worn while moving to and from Communion; however, they are removed to consume the host. Gloves are not required to attend Mass but, if they are worn, they must be removed to receive Communion in the hand.

General Questions:

<i>When does public celebration of Sunday Mass begin:</i>	Saturday May 16 th , 2020 Sunday May 17 th , 2020	at 12:10 pm at 8 am (EF-Latin) at 10 am & Noon at 2 pm (Spanish)
<i>When does public celebration of Daily Mass begin:</i>	Monday May 18 th , 2020	at 7:30 am at 12:10 pm
<i>What if I am older and am not still not able to attend Mass:</i>	<p>Dispensation from the obligation has been extended indefinitely for you.</p> <p>You are encouraged to stay home if you are at risk, and view live streaming Masses and engage in 'spiritual communion'.</p> <p>You may call the parish to arrange for communion.</p>	
<i>What if I cannot attend because I am caring for a person at risk:</i>	<p>Dispensation from the obligation has been extended indefinitely for you.</p> <p>You are encouraged view live streaming Masses and engage in 'spiritual communion'.</p> <p>You may call the parish to arrange for communion.</p>	
<i>What if I am or might be sick:</i>	<p>As always, you should stay home.</p> <p>The 'sick', which may take various forms, are always dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass.</p> <p>You are encouraged view live streaming Masses and engage in 'spiritual communion'.</p> <p>You may call the parish to arrange for communion.</p>	

<i>Will there be additional Mass times if necessary:</i>	We do not anticipate the need for additional Mass Times to accommodate parishioners exceeding restricted attendance numbers.
	We are planning to be able to accommodate excess attendees in the Hall, if necessary & if possible.
	The situation will be monitored and evaluated. Confession hours return to the regular schedule. 30-45 minutes prior to every Mass
<i>What are the hours for confession:</i>	After Mass if necessary, and by appointment.
<i>When is Adoration:</i>	Times of 'Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament' resume according to the regular schedule.
<i>When is the Rosary being prayed:</i>	The Rosary is unchanged.
	It continues to be prayed at 11:25 am everyday
<i>When is the Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena prayed:</i>	The Novena is prayed in the first 9 days of the month, and follows after the Rosary.
<i>When will RCIA and Sacramental PREP resume:</i>	RCIA has concluded for the year.
	Sacramental PREP is concluding in home study.
<i>When will Catechumens receive the Sacraments:</i>	3 persons will be received on May 17 th , 10 am Mass 3 persons will be received on May 23 rd , Noon Mass (see Deacon Larry for your time)
<i>When will the Candidates receive the Sacraments:</i>	1 person will be received on May 30 th , Noon Mass (see Deacon Larry for your time)
<i>When will 1st Communion be celebrated:</i>	May 23 rd , at 3 pm (English) TBD (Spanish) (see Deacon Larry for details)
<i>When will the Sacrament of Confirmation be administered:</i>	We don't yet know.
<i>Can I have my child Baptized:</i>	Yes. Baptisms are being resumed, according to the regular norms of the Parish and following the restrictions for the public celebration of the Mass.
<i>Can plan for our Wedding:</i>	Yes. According to the regular norms of the Parish and following the restrictions for the public celebration of the Mass, which may or may not be in place at the time of your wedding.
<i>Can we have a Funeral Mass:</i>	Yes. According to the regular norms of the Parish and following the restrictions for the public celebration of the Mass, which may or may not be in place at the time of the planned Funeral.

<i>When will ministry meetings be allowed to take place:</i>	We don't yet know.
<i>When will 'parish activities' be allowed to resume:</i>	We don't yet know.
<i>Will there be 'fellowship' / 'coffee & donuts' after Mass:</i>	Unfortunately, not at this time.
<i>Where are the worship aides / hymnals / envelopes:</i>	They have been temporarily removed in order to enhance safety by reducing objects 'commonly handled'. You are encouraged to bring your own St. Joseph Missal or other worship aide.
<i>The Bookstore is closed, but can I still buy things:</i>	Yes. Until the end of May we are attempting to sell, at a discount of 25% - 60%, the remaining inventory. Due to 'safe distancing' concerns, we are not able to open the bookstore to 'after Mass shoppers'. We are working on a plan for purchasing items on the weekend. In the meantime, you are encouraged to make an appointment with Chris, by calling the parish office or emailing him at cmcclelland@icjax.org and arranging for a 'shopping appointment' M – F between 9 am and 4 pm.
<i>Will I still be able to buy candles and other items:</i>	Yes. We have a new reception area in the parish office, where candles, Basilica souvenirs, Rosaries, medals, veils... common items needed by parishioners. These items are available M – F between 9 am and 4 pm. Candles are available on the weekends, through Don.
<i>Will I still be able to order things like I did at the bookstore:</i>	Unfortunately, no. We are no longer able to do this.
<i>What will happen to the former bookstore space:</i>	The Pastoral and Staff team, as well as the Parish and Finance Councils are considering that question and taking suggestions. Feel free to email Chris at cmcclelland@icjax.org However, we are exploring the possibility of creating an Adoration Chapel. There is a short survey in relation to this, on our website at https://www.icjax.org/mass--adoration.html