

Guidelines for Returning to Mass

*St. Jerome Catholic Church
Effective May 5, 2020*

The following guidelines in response to COVID-19 are intended to help keep everyone attending mass as safe and healthy as possible. We appreciate your careful attention to these guidelines for your sake and the sake of others.

1. We strongly encourage all at-risk population to watch the livestream mass from home during this early phase of returning to mass.
2. We strongly encourage everyone attending mass to wear a cloth face covering (mask) over the nose and mouth at all times except when receiving Holy Eucharist.
3. Physical distancing practices of 6 feet between families will be practiced before, after and throughout mass. Ushers will help guide families to pews, every other pew is closed off, and families will exit one at a time after mass and avoid congregating for conversations.
4. The new procedures for receiving Holy Eucharist include:
 - a. Line up each family 6 feet apart. Please wear masks while in line, then remove briefly to receive Eucharist and put back on.
 - b. Receive on the hand, not on the tongue.
 - c. Please hold your hand out flat and still, the Minister will place the Eucharist without touching you. Please wait for their hand to move away from yours before you consume.
 - d. You may choose to say “Amen” in your heart rather than aloud.
 - e. The Eucharist must be consumed immediately and cannot be saved to take home for others you know who cannot attend mass at this time.
5. Seating in the sanctuary will be first come, first serve until it fills to a safe capacity using physical distancing, then we will seat people in the Mother Teresa Center gym to participate in mass via livestream and receive Holy Eucharist.
6. Please use hand sanitizer provided on the walls upon entering and exiting.
7. Hymnals will be removed for sanitation reasons, so we encourage you to bring your own Living with Christ booklet from home if desired. May booklets are available for pick-up.
8. We will have central collection baskets stationed around the sanctuary for collection envelopes, but we encourage you to continue giving online.
9. There will be no nursery available.
10. Mass will be longer as we distribute Eucharist to those seated in the gym, thanks for your patience.
11. All ministers and volunteers will be trained and screened according to Bishop Vasquez’s guidelines released April 30, 2020.
12. If you or a family member is experiencing any known symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, sore throat or loss of taste or smell, please stay home.