



# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

ONE HEART | ONE FAMILY

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Dear Sacred Heart Family and Friends,

I want to bring the good news that we will be resuming public Masses the weekend of May 16 and 17. As we resume the celebration of public Mass, it is crucial that we approach this next phase with patient, loving and charitable hearts.

The safety guidelines and recommendations reflect the most current guidance from civil and public health authorities and are aligned with the bishops of Florida. They will be updated as needed to reflect the guidance from our governmental leaders as we pass through different phases of recovery from the pandemic.

A general dispensation from Sunday Mass will remain. 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 is increasing their risk of exposure to COVID19.

Masks or suitable face coverings will be required to attend Mass. To ensure the protection of those around us, the faithful are required to bring with them a mask or suitable face covering in order to attend Mass – parishes will not provide these. The mask or face covering must be worn at all times except at the moment of consuming Holy Communion.

The church will be disinfected throughout the weekend, however, attendees can bring with them for their own use hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes, as needed.

- Holy Water stoups will be empty, but you can still make the sign of the cross when entering and exiting the church to remind yourself of your baptismal vows.
- Seating will ensure physical distancing. Although families can sit together, separate families and individuals must sit at least 6-feet apart. The ushers will guide you in where to sit.
- Worship aids and hymnals will be removed and not be available. Those attending Mass may bring their own missals/missalettes to follow along or devices to access one of the many worship aids available from online sources. If you use your phone, please be sure that it is in silent mode so as not to disturb the Mass.
- At the Offertory, collection baskets will not be passed. Instead, the ushers will be at the exit doors with baskets where you can place your gift.
- During the Lord's Prayer, handholding will not be permitted.
- The Sign of Peace will also be different. When the deacon or priest invites you to exchange a sign of peace, a simple bow or nod to those around you will suffice.
- The Distribution of Communion will be different too. Holy Communion will only be distributed in the form of the host and will be received in the hand only. Out of care and concern for ministers and communicants, the reception of Holy Communion on the tongue is temporarily suspended during this difficult time. The common communion cup of the precious blood will not be shared. Masks or suitable face coverings must be worn while moving to and from Communion; however, they are to be 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.

For those faithful who are unable to attend Mass due to the dispensation or other limitations we will be in the Church on Sundays from 2:00 to 3:00pm to give Holy Communion.

The revised mass schedule is as follows:

Monday - Saturday – 8:30 am Church will remain open until 3:00pm.

Saturday Vigil – 5:00pm and 7:00pm (Spanish)

Sunday – 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 5:00pm Church will remain open until 5:00pm.

Live Streaming: Sunday 9:30am and Monday – Saturday 8:30am

Confessions will be on Saturdays from 9:00am to 10:00am or by appointment.

We will continue to Live Stream Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00pm and on Fridays from 3:00 to 4:00pm.

I request that you take direction from the ushers as we all learn to adapt to these changes. While these are not ideal circumstances, it is a step in the right direction. Fr. Alex and I want to do our best to serve you, our parish family.

Thank you for your patience with the process. Stay safe!

God bless,

Fr. James Kaniparampil CMI