

Parish Reopening Plan

St. Rose of Lima/St. Patrick Mission

Upon reopening our church for Mass, St. Rose/ St. Patrick Mission will be holding outdoor Masses as long as the weather permits. All parishioners are asked to keep 6ft apart (the pavement will be marked) and bring their own chairs, masks are required and Mass will be kept short and follow the Communion Distribution plan given in the current guidelines. Father Leo will be the only one presiding over the Mass as we had already planned on discontinuing the use of altar servers through the rest of the year or until it is safe practice. All other protocol will follow the same procedure as if the Mass were celebrated indoors.

Regarding the reopening of the Church itself for indoor Masses, normal occupancy is 500, but will remain limited to 60 people. These are our following guidelines:

Physical Arrangements and Procedures

- All people entering the Church are required to wear masks and sanitize their hands. We will have a small number of masks on hand in case someone has forgotten theirs. We also have multiple bottles of hand sanitizer in the vestibule, though we will encourage everyone to have their own as well.
- There is only one designated entrance and one designated exit, which are labeled with signs stating “Enter” or “Exit” and “Do not Enter” or “Entrance Only.” Both the inner and outer sets of double doors being used remain wide open so there is minimal contact.
- Appropriate signage regarding social distancing, masks required, capacity and the outline of how Mass will run have been posted in the vestibule as well as on the doors into the Church.
- Every other pew has been roped off, and the open pews have been measured and marked indicating where parishioners are able to sit. The welcome representative will inform the person walking in where the designated seating is and how the seating works.
- Neither St. Rose nor St. Patrick have a cry room or any water fountains, so those issues do not apply. The holy water fonts have remained dry since Lent.
- At this time there is no need for a reservation system as our congregation is below the limited capacity for both Saturday and Sunday Masses. In the event that attendance becomes much higher, any one attending will need to call the office to reserve a spot by Thursday afternoon at 2:00PM the week of that weekend’s Masses. Reservations will not be taken weeks in advance; they will be handled one week at a time.
- One waiting spot for the bathroom has been marked, and has a sign posted next to it stating to remain here until the person before you has exited the bathroom completely. It also requests parishioners to please return to their seat if one person is already waiting until the waiting spot is open.

- We have trained a number of Ushers and members of the Cleaning Angels to help disinfect the Church after week, with special attention to statues, door handles (though there should be minimal contact) and high touch surfaces in the bathroom.

Protocol for Mass

- All liturgical aids have been removed from the church, as well as any shared “library book” and handouts.
- No Entrance Procession for the Presider and other ministers for the time being. The Celebrant will enter from the Sacristy.
- Music will be provided by the accompanist and a limited number of choir members seated at the choir area, observing appropriate social distancing. The Psalmist should lead the Responsorial Psalm from the Choir area, not from the pulpit, continuing to observe the required distancing.
- The Lectors will be seated in a designated front pew and will proclaim the reading from the pulpit. The Prayers of the Faithful will also be said at the pulpit by the lector. There will generally only be one Lector for each Mass.
- The Gospel and Homily are proclaimed and given at the altar table for now; there is also no Gospel procession.
- St. Rose will continue to use the long-handled baskets generally for the collection. Only the ushers will handle to collection bag, which is brought to the Sacristy safe after Mass.
 - All money is handled with gloves. Before and during the counting process.
- There will be no Offertory Procession, as the Bread (for communion) and Wine (for the Celebrant only) for Consecration will be set up at a credence table near the Altar table.
- The use of Altar Servers has been suspended through the end of the year, or until it is deemed safe to return.
- During the Our Father and Sign of Peace, no contact will be strictly enforced. The Sign of Peace may be expressed through bowing or waving, no hugging or handshakes, and there will be no holding of hands during the Our Father.
- The Ciborium containing the host for Communion will remained closed until it is time for Communion, and only the Presider will distribute Communion at this time. Communion will be distributed as described below.
- There will be no Recessional Procession, and the Presider will exit directly to the Sacristy after Mass.
- At the start of Mass Fr. Leo will emphasize returning straight to your vehicle at the conclusion of Mass; there will be no congregating outside or in the vestibule, as social gatherings after Mass will continue to be strongly discouraged.

Distribution of Communion

- The distribution of Communion will follow the guidelines suggested by the Diocese, and only the Precious Body will be offered during Communion. During the appropriate portion of Mass, those that wish to receive communion, beginning with the back rows first and working towards the front of the church, will line up on the 6ft marks in the aisle (8 at a times as that is what fits with 6ft distancing). The Ushers will help direct this.

- One Extraordinary Minister of Communion will disinfect their hands and stand 6 ft between Fr. Leo and the communicants providing hand sanitizer just before approaching the Presider. When signaled, one parishioner at a time will come up to the Communion station at the front of the church, receive the host in the hand (unless they are unable), step to the side, remove their mask, consume the host, and replace their mask. Once done, they will continue on down an opposite aisle and back to their seat.
- All participants will need to line up and exit following the designated routes in the Church; two-way traffic is to be avoided at all times.