

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH
Guidelines for Public Masses and Other Services during COVID-19

1. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation remains in force until further notice.
 - If your health is compromised by advanced age, underlying medical conditions, problems with your immune system, etc., you should continue to stay home.
 - If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, fever, chills, loss of sense of taste or smell, etc.), out of consideration for the health and well-being of others, you should not come to church.
 - We will continue to livestream one of our weekend Masses for those who stay home.
2. Social distancing of 6 feet between individuals must be maintained. This includes:
 - entering and leaving church.
 - With seating. (Families, of course, may sit together in one pew.)
 - While in line to receive Holy Communion.
3. Church will be limited to 1/3 of its capacity for Masses. Only 100 people can be accommodated at a time in Church. Please be understanding of this limitation.
4. Please enter the Church only through the main door and follow the usher's instructions for your seating. Pews are marked for seating purposes.
5. Surfaces that are touched by people during Mass will be disinfected and cleaned after and/or between Masses with the help of volunteers. Please do not clean the pews with your personal cleaning supplies, it might damage wooden pews. Volunteers will take care of the cleaning/disinfecting the pews since they have proper directions.
6. Holy water fonts will continue to stay empty.
7. Diligent care will be given about making sure that there are sufficient paper towels, hand soaps, etc., in the men's and ladies rooms. Hand sanitizers will be made available at entrances of the church.
8. Holy Mass:
 - The sign of peace at Mass will be suspended until further notice.
 - The Precious Blood will not to be offered to the faithful during Holy Communion.
 - For the offertory, collection baskets will be placed at the entrances of the church at all Masses and the faithful may drop off their donations before or after Mass.
 - There will not be an offertory procession.
 - The bread and wine necessary for Mass will be placed on the credence table.

- A purificator will be wrapped over the hosts and cup during the offertory/Eucharistic Prayer.
 - Holy Communion is to be received only in the hand until further notice. Those who would like to receive communion on tongue should wait until mass is over.
 - There will be only one line for Communion and six feet space must always be maintained while in line.
 - The priest will wear a cloth mask over his mouth while distributing Communion.
 - Everyone is encouraged to wear a cloth mask throughout Mass.
 - Missalettes, Music issues and Prayer cards will be removed from the pews. Sunday Mass Readings printed copies will be available to use. Please place them at the recycling basket after use.
 - Masses will be shorter (short homily & music adjustments)
 - After Mass, please remain in your seat until ushers dismiss you safely.
9. Communion to the homebound is still suspended until further notice. Upon individual request, arrangement will be made.
10. Weddings, Baptisms, and funeral Masses will be celebrated as long as social distancing requirements are met.
11. Gatherings and events such as Bible Studies, Adult Education, etc., remain suspended until further notice.
12. Eucharistic Adoration will continue as usual. Please maintain social distancing. Please do not clean the pews with your personal supplies.
13. Confessions schedules remain the same (Tuesday, Friday, Saturday).

The real difficulty is going to be enforcing the social distancing requirement. It will be hard to tell people trying to attend Mass that they cannot come into the church because it already 1/3 full. The solution we are going to try is that we are going to encourage everyone to look thoughtfully and prayerfully at their schedules and see what day of the week works best for them to come to Mass. Sunday Mass is not mandatory at this time so a weekday Mass has the same value as Sunday.

MASS TIMING

Weekdays:

Tuesday – 5:30 pm

Wednesday - 5:30 pm

Thursday - 8:00 am

Friday – 8:00 am

First Saturday – 8: 00am

Weekends:

Saturday: 5:15 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am

Please remember that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted for the foreseeable future. If possible, try to attend a weekday Mass to keep the numbers coming to Saturday/Sunday Mass manageable. If you are unable to attend Mass, please avail yourself to live-stream Mass from our parish or any of the livestream Masses that are being made available by various parishes throughout the Diocese, the Mass on EWTN, etc.

These guidelines are not perfect. We are all in the middle of an experience that is new and disruptive to all our lives. By mutual cooperation and the grace of Almighty God, we will get through this. Let us continue to hold one another up in prayer. Thank you for your cooperation and support. God bless you!!

Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandai