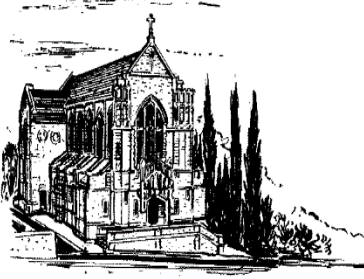


Dear Parishioner:



St. Patrick Parish in unity with the Diocese of Tucson will begin celebrating weekday and weekend public Masses within the following Phase II Covid-19 Pandemic Safety Protocols.

The Weekend (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) Mass schedule will be as follows:

- St. Michael Mission – Saturday 5:00pm
- St. Patrick Church – Sunday 7:30am
- St. Patrick Church – Monday 7:30am

The Weekday (Tuesday – Saturday) Mass schedule will be as follows:

- St. Patrick Church – 7:30am

Parish E-Communication:

- Parish Web Page: stpatsbisbee.com
- Parish Facebook: [facebook.com/stpatrickbisbee/](https://www.facebook.com/stpatrickbisbee/)
- Parish Email: stpatricks@cableone.net
- Parish Flocknote: <https://stpatrickparishbisbee.flocknote.com/>
- Parish Facebook Live Stream: - www.facebook.com/stpatrickbisbee
- Parish YouTube Recorded Video: [youtube.com/c/StPatrickBisbee](https://www.youtube.com/c/StPatrickBisbee)

These Phase II Public Masses will be celebrated in accordance with all Covid-19 protocols established by the Diocese of Tucson as they contain the recommendations of the *Centers for Disease Control* and others with expertise in public health, as communicated through public sources on the national and local levels.

Our goal of protecting all people, but most especially those from the populations made more vulnerable due to age or secondary health issues, must, and will, remain our priority.

As your Pastoral Administrator I am committed to undertaking the following protocols to keep parishioners reasonably safe. Although Covid-19 cases have decreased, the risk is not marginal and remains serious. Be aware there is an inherent risk with any public event, that no one can be guaranteed absolute safety, and that parishioners who willingly choose to participate in a public Mass need to acknowledge they are accepting this inherent risk.

Please know that parishioners are not expected to place themselves at risk as the Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catholics residing in or visiting the Diocese of Tucson has been suspended indefinitely and those over the age of 65 or with secondary health issues are strongly requested not to attend Mass in person. Parishioners who do not attend Mass in person are encouraged to watch Mass through scheduled programming on TV or via live-streaming available on Facebook, YouTube, or other Catholic Church internet web sites.

I will continue to monitor directives and communications from the Diocese with a goal of protecting all people by providing the safest environment possible for the celebration of all public Masses. Please be aware that we might have to regress again if we experience an unexpected spike in the Covid-19 virus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Deacon Tony Underwood
Pastoral Administrator

Outline of Protocols – Phase II

Volunteers and Visitors

- Volunteers or visitors who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- Face Masks for all people age six and older are required while on parish property.
- When on Church property, all persons must maintain strict social distancing protocols; this entails maintaining approximately six feet of space between unrelated persons indoors (includes when seated in the pew) as well as outdoors.
- Generous use of hand sanitizer is required.

Parishioners

- Parishioners who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- All parishioners who are vulnerable persons, age 65 or older and/or have secondary health issues, should continue to shelter in place and not make in-person visits to public places, including our churches for public Mass. However, such persons will not be turned away from church property.
- The Sunday Mass obligation in the Diocese of Tucson is suspended for all persons living in or visiting the Diocese.
- When on Church property, all persons must maintain strict social distancing protocols; this entails maintaining approximately six feet of space between unrelated persons indoors (includes when seated in the pew) as well as outdoors.
- No congregating or interacting in church common areas.
- No shaking hands or physical contact with others.
- Face Masks for congregants age six and older are required.
- Parishioners attending any Mass should use hand sanitizer when they arrive at the church. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the church/mission.
- No Missalettes, hymnals and other such worship materials will be used.
- Parishioners will drop their offertory in stationary baskets located throughout the church for a “no touch” method for the collection.
- The Alleluia and verse before the Gospel will not be sung.
- No Offertory Procession
- Sign of Peace: Parishioners are to express the “Sign of Peace” at Mass in a way that does not involve human touch, such as a small bow.
- The Lord’s Prayer: No holding hands during the Lord’s Prayer.
- No congregational singing permitted.
- For the Reception of Holy Communion:
 1. Vulnerable Persons are encouraged to pray the prayer of spiritual communion in place of a formal reception of the Eucharist.
 2. The distribution of Holy Communion will take place at its normal place in the celebration of the Mass.
 3. Special Ministers of Holy Communion will go to the parishioners throughout the Church, preventing lines from forming that might encourage a breaking down of social distancing.
 4. The Eucharist is to be received only in the hand. The Eucharist must be consumed immediately in the presence of the Minister unless carrying of the Eucharist to a shut-in has been previously authorized by the priest or deacon.
 5. After viewing a Mass through technology, the distribution of Holy Communion will take place outdoors for the vulnerable population. This distribution of Holy Communion will be available for a period of 30 minutes after the conclusion of public Mass.
 6. Holy Communion can be received by our vulnerable population by appointment.
- Respect and follow instructions on all signs.
- Respect and follow instructions from ushers.
- People attending any Mass should use hand sanitizer when they leave and to wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds when they return home.

Facilities

- Church and Mission facilities will be cleaned and sanitized by our parish custodians before each public Mass.
- Frequently touched surfaces (backs of pews, seats, door handles, restroom fixtures, etc.), will be cleaned between Masses.
- Bottles of Hand-sanitizer will be available for parishioners.
- Face Masks will be available for parishioners for those who have none.
- There will be only one main entry point and one handicap entry point for Mass.
- Doors will be propped open for entering and leaving the church/mission.
- Pews will be blocked to ensure social distancing.
- No Holy Water in fonts.
- No Missalettes or hymnals provided.
- Bulletins will not be available before Mass.
- Bulletins will be made available near the end of Mass for self-pickup by the parishioner as they leave Mass.
- Stationary baskets will be located throughout the church for a “no touch” method for the collection.

Clergy – Priests

- Priests who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- Priests will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Face Masks are required for priests. The clergy are key to setting the good example and must make use of a mask before/after Mass, especially if greeting parishioners (while observing social distance).
- Priests who qualify in the vulnerable category are not to greet or interact with parishioners before or after celebrating Mass. Regardless of his age, no priest should be shaking hands or making physical contact with parishioners. Use hand sanitizer.
- Priests in good health, but over the age of 65, may celebrate public weekday and weekend Masses at their discretion.
- Priests, including those viewed as healthy, may not distribute Holy Communion at Mass personally and that Special Ministers of Holy Communion not in the CDC-listed categories of risk assume this liturgical ministry.

Clergy – Deacons

- Deacons who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- Deacons will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Face Masks are required for deacons.
- Deacons under the age of 65, in good health, and without chronic health problems, may resume their ministry while observing all standard protocols.
- Deacons over the age of 65 and with no chronic health problems may resume their ministry at their discretion and in consultation with the administrator.
- Deacons over the age of 65 with chronic health problems must refrain from public ministry or seek permission from the Bishop to return to ministry and must outline those ministries they wish to undertake. This also will require the recommendation of the administrator and may require a letter from their medical doctor.
- Deacons are not to greet or interact with parishioners before or after Mass. No shaking hands or making physical contact with parishioners. Use hand sanitizer.

Liturgical Ministers – Special Ministers of the Eucharist

- Special Ministers of Holy Communion (commonly called “Eucharistic Ministers”) who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion under the age of 65, in good health, and without chronic health problems, may resume their ministry while observing all standard protocols.

- Special Ministers of Holy Communion over the age of 65 and with no chronic health problems may resume their ministry at their discretion and in consultation with the administrator.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion over the age of 65 with chronic health problems must refrain from public ministry.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion will be employed to help distribute Holy Communion at Mass.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion are to wash their hands before and after the distribution of Holy Communion and make generous use of hand-sanitizer.
- Face Masks are required for Special Ministers of Holy Communion.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion are not to greet or interact with parishioners before or after Mass. No shaking hands or making physical contact with parishioners.
- The distribution of Holy Communion will take place at its normal place in the celebration of the Mass.
- Holy Communion will only be given in the hand.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion will go to the parishioners throughout the Church, preventing lines from forming that might encourage a breaking down of social distancing.
- After viewing a Mass through technology, the distribution of Holy Communion will take place outdoors for the vulnerable population. This distribution of Holy Communion will be available for a period of 30 minutes after the conclusion of public Mass.
- Holy Communion can be received by our vulnerable population by appointment.

Liturgical Ministers – Choirs, Cantors and Musicians

- As singing releases far more potential droplets of contagion in the air than talking, there will be no congregational singing.
- There will be no choir, instrumental music, or cantor as the majority of our music ministry members qualify as vulnerable persons.
- No mariachi bands permitted.

Liturgical Ministers – Lectors

- Lectors who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- Lectors will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Lectors under the age of 65, in good health, and without chronic health problems, may resume their ministry while observing all standard protocols.
- Lectors over the age of 65 and with no chronic health problems may resume their ministry at their discretion and in consultation with the administrator.
- Lectors over the age of 65 with chronic health problems must refrain from public ministry.
- Face Masks for the Lectors are required but may be temporarily removed to proclaim the Word.
- Lectors are not to greet or interact with parishioners before or after Mass. No shaking hands or making physical contact with parishioners. Use hand sanitizer.
- The Alleluia and verse before the Gospel will not be sung.

Liturgical Ministers – Sacristans

- Sacristans who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- Sacristans will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Sacristans under the age of 65, in good health, and without chronic health problems, may resume their ministry while observing all standard protocols.
- Sacristans over the age of 65 and with no chronic health problems may resume their ministry at their discretion and in consultation with the administrator.
- Sacristans over the age of 65 with chronic health problems must refrain from public ministry.
- Face Masks for the Sacristans are required.
- Sacristans are not to greet or interact with parishioners before or after Mass. No shaking hands or making physical contact with parishioners. Use hand sanitizer.
- Sacristans are to ensure a thorough cleansing of all Communion vessels after each Mass.
- Sacristans are to continue to serve as Altar Server for the Mass.

Liturgical Ministers – Ushers

- Ushers who are feeling sick in any way may not come onto parish property.
- Ushers will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Ushers under the age of 65, in good health, and without chronic health problems, may resume their ministry while observing all standard protocols.
- Ushers over the age of 65 and with no chronic health problems may resume their ministry at their discretion and in consultation with the administrator.
- Ushers over the age of 65 with chronic health problems must refrain from public ministry.
- Face Masks for Ushers are required.
- Ushers must observe all social distancing protocols when interacting with parishioners before or after Mass and when assisting parishioners in locating available seating.
- Ushers are not to shake hands or making physical contact with parishioners. Use hand sanitizer.
- Ushers are to ensure no congregating or interacting in church common areas by parishioners.
- Ushers are to ensure doors are propped open for entering and leaving the church/mission.
- Ushers will NOT be taking a collection. (Parishioners will drop their offertory in stationary baskets located throughout the church for a “no touch” method for the collection.)
- Ushers will place Bulletins out for self-pickup by the parishioner as they leave Mass.

Phase II – Other Celebrations

Homebound Shut-in / Hospital / Nursing Home / Life Care Facility Visits

- Visits to our Homebound/Shut-ins will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- Parishioners requesting a visit must not knowingly have the Covid-19 virus.
- Parishioners requesting a visit must not be experiencing Covid-19 symptoms of: Fever or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, or Diarrhea.
- Priests, Deacons, and Lay Ministers of Holy Communion must also take into account the potential of their own accidental transmission of the virus to those they might visit, especially those with compromised health. Visits are not possible if a priest, deacon, or lay minister is experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms.
- Wherever possible, outdoor visits are greatly preferred to entering the homes of homebound shut-ins.
- Priests, Deacons, and Lay Ministers of Holy Communion will follow all local protocols as it pertains to pastoral visits in hospitals, nursing homes or life care facilities.

Weekday Mass

- Public weekday Masses will resume and be celebrated Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30am in St. Patrick Church.
- Mass celebrated on Monday will not be a weekday Mass and will use the weekend (Sunday) Liturgical readings and prayers.
- All protocols for Sunday Masses must be followed at Weekday Masses.
- Church facilities will be cleaned and sanitized by our parish sacristans or by parish custodians after each weekday public Mass.
- Frequently touched surfaces (backs of pews, seats, door handles, restroom fixtures, etc.), will be cleaned and sanitized between Masses.

Baptisms

- Baptisms will be limited to twenty (20) persons. Critical to the celebration of a baptism during this phase is social distancing during the celebration.
- It has been observed repeatedly that celebrations involving persons well known to one another (families at weddings, baptisms, first-communions, etc.) are occasions with a far greater chance of a breakdown in social distancing, etc.
- The celebrant of Baptism should instruct the family ahead of time as to the importance of social distancing.
- Outdoor baptisms (on parish property) are permitted at this time.

Funerals and Weddings

- Funerals and Weddings will follow the same protocols as Sunday Masses especially as it pertains to maximum seating in the Church, music etc.

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)

- The Sacramental Penance may be celebrated indoors but not in a small, confined space, such as the typical "confessional." A place in the church nave near the sanctuary will be setup for the celebration of the sacrament.
- The penitent and confessor must observe social distancing protocols.
- Masks must be used by the penitent and confessor and efforts for good ventilation will be employed.
- Contact the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest.
- The sacrament may be celebrated outdoors and at a healthy social distance and with the use of masks.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

- If celebrated it will take place immediately after a celebrated Mass and for a limited period of time, (1 hour is preferred) with people remaining in the seat they occupied for Mass.
- Parishioners must wear masks.
- Adoration may not take place in a small, confined space or chapel.

Confirmation

- Confirmation remains delegated to priests in accord with the delegation Bishop extended in recent weeks.
- Confirmation celebrations are to follow the protocols of Sunday Mass.
- Individual cotton balls are to be used for the anointing and there is to be no "hand-shake" (sign of peace). In its place the celebrant and recipient of the Sacrament are to verbally extend a wish for peace perhaps with a partial bow to one another.

Quinceaneras

- Quinceaneras are to follow the same protocols as Sunday Masses.
- Public celebratory gatherings before or after the celebration at the entrance of the Church or on the Church grounds are not permitted.
- Parish facilities may not be rented at this time for celebrations.
- No mariachi bands permitted.

Parish Meetings

- Parish meetings ordinarily are to be held through technology. By exception, they may resume in person but only when all participants are outside the "at risk" category of the CDC and the participants freely agree to participate. Those who cannot participate in an in-person meeting should be provided the opportunity to participate through technology.
- All in-person meetings must follow social distancing protocols and use of masks.
- Meeting rooms shall be cleaned and disinfected after use and between meetings.
- If these points cannot be met, then the meetings must take place via technology.

Fiestas or Social Gatherings or Fund-raising Events or Raffles

- Fiestas and Social Gatherings are not allowed. (Social Gatherings and Fiestas are fraternal in nature. There is a strong potential for social distancing and other protocols to collapse.)
- Fund-raising endeavors, including raffles: these will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The critical issue will be the extent to which safety protocols can be applied.
- Fund-raising efforts involving food will probably not be permitted in this phase and they would have to be cleared by a county health department before approaching the Diocese.
- There may be no social gatherings between households before or after Mass or other celebrations.