



Dear Parishioner:

St. Patrick Parish in unity with all parishes in the Diocese of Tucson will resume celebrating public Masses the weekend of May 30th – June 1st.

The Sunday Mass schedule will be as follows:

- St. Patrick Church – Saturday May 30th – 7:30am
- St. Michael Mission – Saturday May 30th – 5:00pm
- St. Patrick Church – Sunday May 31st – 7:30am
- St. Patrick Church – Monday June 01st – 7:30am

These Phase I 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 promise that the parish will be undertaking the following protocols to keep parishioners reasonably safe. There is however 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.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Deacon Tony Underwood
Pastoral Administrator

Outline of Protocols – Phase I

Parishioners

- 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.
- All people should stay home if they are sick or have symptoms of illness.
- 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 over the age of two and who have no trouble breathing are strongly encouraged.
- 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.
- 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 praying of the Our Father Prayer.
- 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 reception of Holy Communion will take place after the final blessing and dismissal, at communion stations located outside the Church.
 3. Social distancing for those waiting to receive Holy Communion must be observed.
 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.
- 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 a professional custodial service before the first 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.
- 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.
- Stationary baskets will be located throughout the church for a “no touch” method for the collection.

Liturgical Ministers – Priests

- Priests will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- 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 weekend Masses at their discretion. They are to socially distance themselves from parishioners and not distribute Holy Communion at Mass personally. However, priests over the age of 65, but in generally good health, may approach the Bishop for permission to distribute Holy Communion notwithstanding this guideline.

Liturgical Ministers – Deacons

- Deacons will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Deacons over the age of 65 or with a health concern are not to resume their ministry at this time. Any exception is to be addressed to the Bishop.
- 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”) will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion will be employed for all Masses to help distribute Holy Communion.
- Special Ministers of Holy Communion are to wash their hands before and after the distribution of Holy Communion and to use hand sanitizer.
- Face Masks for the Special Ministers of Holy Communion are required.

- The reception of Holy Communion will take place after the final blessing and dismissal, at communion stations located outside the Church.
- Vulnerable Persons may not serve as a 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.

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.

Liturgical Ministers – Lectors

- Lectors will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Face Masks for the Lectors are required when out of the sanctuary and not while serving during the liturgy.
- Vulnerable Persons may not serve as Lectors.
- 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 will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Face Masks for the Sacristans are required when out of the sanctuary.
- Vulnerable Persons may not serve as a Sacristan.
- 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 will be screened for symptoms of illness prior to the start of the Mass.
- Face Masks for Ushers are required.
- Vulnerable Persons may not serve as an Usher.
- 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 are to assist parishioners in locating available seating.
- 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.)

Phase I – Other Celebrations

Daily Mass

- Except for Masses celebrated on Fridays and Mondays (always using the weekend Liturgical readings and prayers) there may be no public daily Masses. This allows the worship spaces to be cleaned if they are not in continuous use throughout the week.
- Also, several days of non-use of our worship space should give the virus time to die if it has been unknowingly brought into the church.

Funerals and Weddings

- There are to be no gatherings or events at parish churches other than Weekend Masses, funerals, or weddings with attendance limited according to social distancing standards.
- Weddings and funerals remain limited to the 6-foot radius social distancing rule for seating in the parish church and vulnerable persons are strongly discouraged from participating.
- All protocols for Sunday Masses must be followed at weddings and funerals.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Contact the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest.
- The sacrament may be celebrated outdoors and at a healthy social distance.
- Small, indoor confessionals may not be used at this time.