

May 20, 2020

I hope that this letter finds you all in good health. I know that you all are as anxious as I am to return to Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Mount.

I would like to provide you with the latest information on returning to Mass. The Archdiocese of Atlanta has provided us with guidelines to follow in order that we might return safely to Mass while protecting the most vulnerable of our parishioners.

These guidelines are similar to what you have experienced at the grocery store and follow CDC guidelines. These guidelines are temporary but at this time we do not know how long "temporary" will be. This letter is presented so that everyone can understand these guidelines.

Daily Mass will resume on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 A.M. in the main church. Our first weekend Mass will be on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M., and Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 A.M. For those of you who are not comfortable or feel vulnerable, dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect through June 28<sup>th</sup>. Daily Mass allows those who do not want to be in a larger congregation to come to Mass with smaller numbers.

We ask that if possible, you take your temperature at home before leaving for Mass. If your temperature is 99.6 degrees or higher please stay home. If you do not feel well or think you may be sick, please stay home.

Social distancing of at least 6 feet and non-contact greetings will be expected for the immediate future. This means for now no hugs or handshakes. Families that live in the same household may all sit in the same pew. All others must maintain a separation of at least 6 feet. Every other pew has been closed and taped off in order to aid in social distancing.

You will also notice the following changes:

1. All missalettes, tissues, and pens have been removed from the pews.
2. For now, our nursery will remain closed.
3. Holy water fonts will remain empty.
4. Hand sanitizer is available near the church entrance and its use is encouraged.
5. Directional tape is on the floor to indicate proper direction of foot traffic.
6. All Mass participants are required to wear a mask. If you do not have a mask there are masks available in the narthex.
7. The collection baskets will not be passed during Mass but gifts will be collected using baskets with long handles.
8. At Holy Communion, please wait and follow the direction of the usher. The Precious Blood will not be offered at Holy Communion. The Host will be placed on your hand but not on your tongue.

Because of the new seating arrangements, the maximum number of people that can attend Mass is 100. Any attendees above that number would be allowed to stand outside with proper social distancing. Hopefully, this will not be an issue.

These are the new guidelines. Let's make the best of it and stay healthy. It is our hope and prayer we will return to normality soon. We look forward to seeing you all again.