

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's Return to Mass Plan

- These guidelines are subject to change as needed in the foreseeable future.
- Beginning on Pentecost weekend, May 30th/31st, St. John the Evangelist will cautiously return to Mass.
- Mass Schedule:
 - Saturday @ 5:00 p.m.
 - Sunday @ 7:30 a.m.
 - Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.
 - Sunday @ 12:00 noon.
 - Sunday @ 2:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass)
- Daily Masses will resume on Monday, May 25th in the main church, at 9:00am (See our website for the weekday schedule).

The following precautions, procedure and guidelines are required during this time:

- We will offer reduced capacity seating to social distance appropriately.
- Parishioners who are fearful about being in a public place, such as the church, where we cannot guarantee personal health safety, should not attend Mass.
- Anyone showing the following signs, for the sake of others, should not attend mass:
 - Fever
 - Coughing
 - Sneezing
- The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended through Sunday, June 28, 2020. This will be revisited closer to the date. If parishioners are in the "higher risk" category due to: age (65 or older) or have a current illness or compromised immune system, please remain at home.
- You are welcome to attend a daily Mass during the week if you feel more comfortable with a smaller crowd.
- The Masses will be streamed online to Facebook & YouTube during the 9:30 Mass for parishioners not comfortable physically returning.
- Directives on the sacrament of confession will be forthcoming.
- The church will be open at least 30 minutes prior to each Mass to begin seating parishioners. Ushers will help facilitate parishioners to sit front to back and outside the row to the center; please follow their instructions. If possible, we will pray the rosary before the beginning of Mass. Please enter and exit the church quietly. Save conversations for outside.
- The priests and deacons will not greet parishioners before or after Mass.
- The Holy Water fonts will not be available.
- Family households will be allowed to sit together. Other parishioners will be seated at least 6 feet from others.
- Every other row will be closed off and will not be seated.
- For overflow, services on Sunday @ 9:30/12:00 noon, Fr. Brian will be conducting a Mass in the Parish Center with the same social distancing procedures in place.
- The church will be properly disinfected between Masses, however, please feel free to bring your own hand sanitizer to ensure your personal protection.
- Parishioners are highly encouraged to wear masks that follow CDC guidelines. We will have a limited quantity on hand if someone forgets theirs and needs one.
- The sign of peace is suspended for the foreseeable future.
- There will not be a distribution of the Precious Blood.
- There will be no altar servers or Eucharistic Ministers utilized.
- Hymnals and missalettes have been removed from the pews. There will be limited singing. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own readings from home or read them in advance on the USCCB website. They are also available electronically on the MyParish app.

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- Communion will be structured differently. It will take place at the end of Mass following the final blessing. At this time, it will be distributed on the hand only and must be consumed immediately. Holy Communion may not be received on a gloved hand. There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood. Ushers will direct parishioners forward at this time.
- The bathrooms should only be used if necessary. Parishioners, especially children, are encouraged to handle this at home before arriving for Mass. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent to the restroom.
- The offertory baskets will be at the entrances and exits and monitored by an usher.
 - The online giving is an option: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1566>.
 - The lockbox at the church office is another option.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church is looking forward to welcoming back our parishioners. Please ensure that we have spent an extraordinary amount of time to ensure this return is being handled in a safe and secure manner for our priests, deacons, and parishioners. If you have questions or concerns, you are encouraged to contact the church office at 229-244-2430 or stjohns@stjohnevang.org.