

## **INITIAL RE-OPENING INSTRUCTIONS – ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH**

Dear friends,

As you may have seen in my email message to our parishioners last night, I announced that St. Aloysius will resume our regular schedule of public Masses with our **WEEKDAY MASSES** beginning on **MONDAY MORNING, MAY 18, 2020, AT 6:00 A.M. ALL MASSES WILL BE ONLY IN THE MAIN CHURCH.** We plan to resume our regular schedule of **Sunday Masses** on the weekend of **May 23 – 24, 2020.**

Our regular scheduled **CONFESSIONS** will also begin on **Monday morning, May 18, 2020. NOTE:** During the Phase 1 Re-Opening, our church “CRY ROOM” has been re-configured as a RECONCILIATION room for the times of scheduled confessions, in which the social distancing precautions can be safely observed for both penitent and confessor.

As you’ve maybe observed in the information already published at other parishes, **no two parishes are alike** in how and when they are re-opening, as all the details to be considered vary in complexity with each parish. My first priority in implementing a re-opening process at St. Aloysius is the health, safety, and well-being of all our parishioners. I know many folks were disappointed that this Phase 1 transition did not bring better news. The fact is that the coronavirus pandemic is still going strong and it’s very dangerous to leave one’s home, especially the most vulnerable among us. So, those at highest risk for contracting the virus, are urged to continue staying at home, watching Mass on TV, and making Acts of Spiritual Communion.

For most who are anxious to return to Mass, it is to be able to once again receive Holy Communion on a regular basis. So, our bishop’s indefinite extension of his dispensation from our Sunday Mass obligation will make it possible for us to choose from any one of our 10 regularly scheduled weekly Masses to receive Holy Communion! I am hopeful that these multiple opportunities will not make it necessary to resort to ‘signing-up’ or ‘issuing tickets’ to limit attendees to any of our Masses. This will only become necessary if I sense that any of our scheduled Masses will be attended by more than the permitted 25% occupancy. To enable me to better make that assessment, please take the very brief anonymous survey **before this coming weekend.** Some may need to hold down their CTRL key in order to click on this link <https://forms.gle/DYPUyBe3jzoW7Y7Z6> if you and your family will plan to return to Mass during this transitional Phase 1 period.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** During this Phase 1 time.....

(1) We are unable to permit any seating in our Cry Room during Masses.

(2) We are unable to provide Nursery Services or Children's Church during any Masses.

(3) We are unable to offer 'Coffee & Donuts' after 9 AM Sunday Mass.

## **BEFORE YOU COME TO CHURCH.**

Before leaving your home, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds. Make sure that each person has a face covering, i.e. scarf, neckerchief, or face-mask, which must be covering one's nose and mouth at all times while inside the church. If any of us with high resilience to symptoms has been infected and recovered without even knowing that we have or have had the virus, we can easily spread it if we don't wear the face covering. If at all possible, make sure each person brings with him or her a pocket-size container of hand-sanitizer.

## **WHEN YOU GET TO CHURCH.**

Do not arrive for any Mass more than 15 minutes ahead of time, and do not plan to remain in church at the end of Mass. The disinfecting and sanitizing procedures we must implement before and after each Mass will prevent arriving early and staying after Mass. Click this link to see a detailed description of disinfecting and sanitizing procedures our custodial staff is utilizing: [sanitizing](#).

The only doors unlocked for entry will be the 2 doors closest to our Stuart Avenue parking lots.

## **INSIDE THE CHURCH.**

Note that the holy water bowls will be empty. You won't be able to sit where you usually sit. This is important! To ensure compliance with social distancing requirements, many pews are 'taped off' and all sections of seating will fill from the front to the back, that is from those closest to the altar to those furthest from the altar. It is important to enter a pew in any section from the center aisle only. This is to prevent folks from having to climb over you to get to an unused spot in the middle of a pew.

## **WHEN MASS STARTS**

Other than within immediate families seated together, there is to be no physical contact among Mass attendees. You will find that all hymnals & missals have been removed from the pews. An option if you have a smart phone is to pull up the Mass parts and readings on your phone using the [Laudate](#) app, which can be uploaded free on your phone's 'app store.'

## **PROCESSIONS & OFFERTORY**

At the beginning and end of Mass, the priest celebrant will process in and out alone. Collection baskets will not be passed and there will be no offertory processions. A collection basket will be on a stand inside the doors of the church at all 10 of our regularly scheduled weekly Masses. Please place your gift in a basket upon entering or leaving the church at the weekly Mass you attend. Otherwise, we encourage all to utilize our opportunities for automatic scheduled bank draft (ACH) or electronic funds transfer (EFT) giving. Instructions are at our website: [www.aloysius.org](http://www.aloysius.org)

## **AT COMMUNION TIME**

It will be important that all in attendance file out of the pew in order, maintaining at least 6 feet between each other, when approaching for Holy Communion, even if you only cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion. When you enter the center aisle from either section of pews, you'll be merging into a single-file Communion line. For when the communion line 'stalls,' you will see distancing lines 'taped' on the floor in the main aisles at 6 ft intervals. For the protection of both communicant and minister of Holy Communion, all are urged to receive Holy Communion only in the hands. When you receive it in your hands, step aside, lower or raise your face mask for only as long as it take you to place Communion inside your mouth, and file by way of the side aisles to your seat in the pews. Only approach the Communion minister after the person in front of you has stepped aside after receiving Communion.

## **EXIT THE CHURCH ONLY IN THE REVERSE ORDER OF ENTRY**

Just as the pews filled from front to back from the center aisles upon arriving at church, it's important that they empty to the center aisles from the back to the front at the end of Mass. Please make no 'mad dash' down a side aisle creating a 'back up' at the exit doors. If seated in the main nave (center body) of the church', please exit through the rear (main) doors of the church.

## **PROCEED DIRECTLY TO YOUR VEHICLES IN THE PARKING LOT**

Everyone should continue wearing face coverings when exiting the church and until getting safely to your vehicle. Please do not stop to socialize on the way out or on the sidewalks or in the parking lot.

I need to emphasize that these are 'initial' instructions. Expect updates and changes between now and the first weekend on which public Masses resume.

I am doing my best to think of these times as a 'great adventure' rather than a nuisance time of oppression, curtailment, and deprivation! I'd encourage us all to do the same. I trust each of you to help safeguard everyone by cooperating with these instructions, and I thank you for your patience and understanding with me, as we together navigate these uncharted, uncertain, and dangerous times. By thinking of others' safety as well as our own, we are keeping the second greatest commandment given us by Jesus: Loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Yours in our Good Shepherd,  
Father Randy