

St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna

Updated as of May 21, 2020

GUIDELINES AND SAFETY MEASURES – RETURN TO SACRED LITURGY

General Notice

With the governor's recent decision to ease some restrictions on public gatherings, St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna will begin again to gather for **Sacred Liturgy only**, effective on Saturday, May 30th. We will still maintain appropriate social distancing and safety measures according to these guidelines. These guidelines are subject to change in the event of new instructions from local or state health officials. We ask, out of charity to our neighboring parishes, that we be respectful of their needs and responsibilities to serve their members first and foremost, so please attend Mass at St. Patrick Church and not at other parishes.

Please note:

- **The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation remains in force for all Catholics. Therefore, if you are not yet comfortable returning to public liturgy for any reason, that is completely acceptable. See *Other Options for Mass* below.**
- Gatherings are limited to the Sacred Liturgy. At this time, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will not be available until further notice.
- All other parish and school activities remain restricted, including any after-Mass gatherings such as congregating in the Narthex, our parish breakfasts, funeral luncheons, wedding receptions, graduation parties, religious education, youth group, RCIA, CRHP retreats, bible studies, dinners, group prayer sessions outside of Masses, American Heritage Girls and Trail Life Boys meetings, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Project Linus, Fresh Hope, etc.
- Social distancing is to be maintained during the Sacred Liturgy and at all times.
- **The following are encouraged to remain home:**
 - The elderly
 - People with underlying medical conditions
 - Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk
 - People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions
 - People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms
 - People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms
 - People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19
 - People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
- Holy Communion to the homebound, nursing homes and assisted living facilities remain suspended until further notice.
- **Please consult Father Baxter or the Parish Office for guidance and questions specific to your personal situation.**
- **In the event of serious sickness or death, please call the rectory at 402-332-4428.**

New Mass Schedule

Effective on Saturday, May 30, a new Mass schedule will begin as follows, **and will continue on this same weekly cycle**, until further notice:

- Saturday – Evening Mass at 5:00 PM (*Overflow room will be provided in the Parish Center*)
- Sunday – Mass at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and Noon
(*Overflow room will be provided in the Parish Center for the 10:00 AM Mass only*)
- Monday – No Mass and No Communion Service
- Tuesday – Evening Mass at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday – Morning Mass at 7:30 AM
- Thursday – Evening Mass at 6:00 PM
- Friday – Morning Mass at 7:30 AM

Weekend Mass Attendance Suggestions

Due to the need to meet social distancing requirements and to ensure we can accommodate the desire of our parishioners to attend a weekend Mass, we are suggesting families' attend Mass according to the schedule below, if possible:

If Your Last Name Falls Between:	This is Your Suggested Mass Attendance Time
Aa – Fo	Saturday at 5:00 PM
Fr – Kue	Sunday at 8:00 AM
Kul – Sar	Sunday at 10:00 AM
Saw - Zy	Sunday at Noon

New Mass Procedures

We will also be taking additional precautionary measures at all our liturgies – before, during and after each Mass – in accordance with the guidelines below.

Before and During Mass:

- Those who are sick, out of charity towards our fellow parishioners, ought to stay home. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days does not bind those who are not yet ready to return to public liturgy. See *Other Options for Mass* below.
- No food, drinks or toys should be brought into the Church for use while attending Mass.
- For Saturday and Sunday Masses, one lector, two EMHCs, and four ushers will be scheduled to serve in advance. At this time, rosary reciters, altar servers, sacristans and greeters will not be scheduled to assist at each Mass. Notice of liturgical minister assignments will be provided in each week's bulletin for the following weekend's Masses. If substitutes are needed, kindly find a substitute as done so in the past.
- For weekend Masses only, the public recitation of the rosary prior to the start of each Mass will not be available at this time due to the timing needs of cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting between Masses. However, a public rosary prior to the start of each weekday Mass will be available.
- Liturgical ministers assigned to assist at Mass should arrive no less than 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass and stop in the Father Wallace room to sign-in. EMHCs will not wear the cross necklace as usual.
- For weekday Masses, the regular schedule of assigned lectors will be resumed. If substitutes are needed, kindly find a substitute as done so in the past.
- **Wearing a mask to Mass is highly recommended, and those desiring to wear a mask must supply their own.**
- We kindly ask all parishioners to avoid physical contact, like hugs or shaking hands before Mass.
- All water fonts will remain emptied of holy water.
- Ushers will assist with directing people to pews prior to the start of Mass. Rows will be filled from the front to the back of the church.
- The Cry Room will be closed off and not available for seating.
- Every other pew will be roped off so seating can be arranged such that six feet of distance can be maintained between parties.
- Parties will be required to sit a minimum distance of six feet apart within each available pew and in all directions from other parties.
- Family units, *who currently live together in the same household*, may sit together without following the six-foot distance requirement, but should maintain a social distance from other parties.
- Although not required, we encourage families to keep active toddlers, if unable to stay in the pew, at home for their own protection and to minimize exposure to others.
- To accommodate spacing requirements for the 5:00 PM Saturday Mass and the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass, overflow seating will be arranged and available in the Parish Center and utilized as needed. We kindly ask those who may be seated in the Parish Center, whether coming together

as a family group or not, that the chairs in the Parish Center not be moved so we can keep post-cleanup efficient and simplified.

- Music will be provided at the 5:00 PM Saturday Mass, as well as the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Sunday Masses. No music will be provided at the Noon Mass. With direction from the Archdiocese of Omaha, we kindly ask that parishioners not join in with any singing to limit any air-borne contagions from being spread.
- Missalettes and song books will be removed from all pews for the time being to prevent the spread of any contagions.
- The children's collection will not be taking place.
- The Offertory procession will be omitted; all gifts will be kept in the sanctuary.
- The long-arm collection baskets will be held by our ushers only and not passed from hand to hand. After each Mass, these baskets will be thoroughly disinfected and sanitized.
- Parishioners are kindly requested to omit hand-holding during the Our Father.
- The Sign of Peace will not take place or be replaced with any other gesture.

Distribution of Holy Communion:

- Each of our EMHCs will be sanitizing hands before and after distributing Holy Communion. EMHCs will be **required** to wear a face mask while distributing Holy Communion and must provide their own mask. Father Baxter will also be wearing a face mask while distributing Holy Communion.
- Holy Communion will be administered section-by-section, in single lines only, with people spacing themselves six feet apart as they enter the communion line. As each section is served, other sections will sit and wait until signaled by either Father Baxter or the EMHC. Here is the process:
 - Father Baxter will distribute Holy Communion in the main center aisle, beginning with the 'left-of-center' section only. Each pew in this section will wait patiently to enter a single communion line in the center aisle as they keep a six-foot distance from others at all times as they enter the communion line. Once the 'left-of-center' section is completed, Father Baxter will then begin to distribute Holy Communion to those in the 'right-of-center' section in the same manner. Once Father Baxter has completed these *two inside sections only* of the main aisle, he will proceed to the altar to begin purifying the vessels. Both the 'far outer main left section' and the far 'outer main right section' will sit and wait patiently to be served by an EMHC when signaled to proceed forward by the EMHC.
 - As Father Baxter is serving communion in the main center aisle to the two inside sections closest to the center aisle, one EMHC will be starting to distribute Holy Communion in the south transept (e.g., the two sections near the tabernacle) beginning with the *left section only*. Each pew in this section will wait patiently to enter a single communion line between the two aisles as they keep a six-foot distance from others at all times as they enter the communion line. Once the left section of the transept is completed, the EMHC will then begin to distribute Holy Communion to those in the right section of the transept in the same manner. Once this EMHC has completed these two sections of the south transept, they will distribute communion to the south outer section of the main church. (Note to EMHC: Please stay as far back from the front pews of each section with your hands as close to the altar step as possible).
 - As Father Baxter is serving communion in the main center aisle to the two inside sections closest to the center aisle, one EMHC will be starting to distribute Holy Communion in the north transept (e.g., the two sections near the choir pit) beginning with the *left section only*. Each pew in this section will wait patiently to enter a single communion line between the two aisles as they keep a six-foot distance from others at all times as they enter the communion line. Once the left section of the transept is completed, the EMHC will then begin to distribute Holy Communion to those in the right section of the transept in the same manner. Once this EMHC has completed these two sections of the north transept, they will distribute communion to the north outer section

of the main church. (Note to EMHC: Please stay as far back from the front pews of each section with your heels as close to the choir pit, but six feet away from the musicians).

- Holy Communion will be distributed under the species of bread alone.
- As an act of charity, all communicants should receive on the hand, as the reception on the tongue may inadvertently contaminate the hands of our clergy and those EMHCs distributing Holy Communion.

After Mass:

- Ushers will assist with releasing people, pew-by-pew, beginning with the back rows, at the end of Mass to maintain the appropriate social distancing as people exit the church.
- We kindly ask all parishioners to avoid physical contact, like hugs or shaking hands after Mass.
- Please avoid visiting and congregating in groups in the Narthex after Mass.
- Ushers will not be handing out bulletins as people exit the church. Bulletins will be placed on tables in the Narthex for persons to take at their convenience while exiting the church.
- Immediately following each Mass, we will be sanitizing and disinfecting the church, doors, pews, kneelers, collection baskets, narthex and restrooms with a fogger device that will mist BotaniClean, an EPA-registered Category IV low-toxicity disinfectant (a green and organic product) which has demonstrated effectiveness against the COVID-19 virus and reduces risks of contamination.
- We encourage everyone to exit the building quickly and efficiently as we have limited time between Masses to disinfect, sanitize and clean before the next Mass starts.

Other Options for Mass

St. Patrick Church will continue to pre-record our Saturday evening Mass each week until further notice. This pre-recorded Mass will then be made available for anyone to celebrate at their convenience anytime on Sunday. Simply go to our parish website (stpatricksgretna.org) or Facebook page (@stpatrickgretna) and follow the link to the Mass.

Additional options for virtual Mass include the following:

- Mass for Shut-Ins on WOWT Channel 6 on Sunday at 10:30 AM; and it is also available at <https://archomaha.org/mass-for-shut-ins/>.
- Mass on Spirit Catholic Radio FM 102.7 on Sunday at Noon.
- Mass on EWTN as follows: daily at 7:00 AM or at 11:00 AM (Sunday included); and on Monday through Saturday, Mass is also televised at 6:00 PM (not on Sunday). View the EWTN TV schedule at <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule> and watch Mass live at <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live>.

The ***Act of Spiritual Communion*** can be prayed often throughout the day:

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine,

All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine! (3 Times)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our normal Saturday Reconciliation Service will start up again on Saturday, May 30th at the normal time before Mass, from 4:00 PM to 4:40 PM. Confessions will not be held in the confessional room, but will be held in the Father Hitch room to allow for social distancing. The penitent is required to wear a mask, and Father Baxter will also be wearing a mask. If you are unable to come to confession at this time,

however, please contact Father Baxter directly at 402-332-4444, x205 or email him at gpbaxter@archomaha.org and he will respond to your need and schedule an individual appointment.

Security Measures

We are continuing our security measures as follows:

- The main east entrance doors leading into the Narthex (farthest to the south) of St. Patrick Church remain open 7 days a week from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM to allow parishioners to come in and pray. Please remember to respect the social distancing rules of staying a minimum of six feet apart from one another. We ask that there be no more than 10 people gathered at any one time in the Church or other areas throughout the building.
- For weekend Masses only, all church entrances will be unlocked a half hour prior to the start of Mass and locked five minutes after the Mass has begun. If you arrive late to Mass, you will need to enter through the Main East Entrance *South* Door (the door leading into the Narthex, closest to the Parish Office).
- While the doors will be unlocked a half hour prior to the start of weekend Masses, we ask you to wait to enter the Church no sooner than 20 minutes before Mass begins to be sure we are done disinfecting and sanitizing after the prior Mass.
- Our normal security practices will remain in effect, with the exception that the entire church basement and the elevator will continue to be locked around-the-clock every day of the week.
- Conference and meeting rooms will not be available for use.
- The familiar adoration door key code (a 3-digit code plus #) has been disabled. However, adorers with security badges will still be able to access the church for their scheduled individual prayer times.

Additional Updates from the Archdiocese of Omaha

The Archdiocese continues to monitor the latest reports on the spread of coronavirus in our community, and they have created a web page that is updated as necessary. Visit <https://archomaha.org/covid-19-precautions/> for updates that can change daily.

Prayers for Our Parish Family

As we do all that is humanly possible to contain the spread of the coronavirus, we fervently pray for God's protection and healing upon all of us during this time of trial. We trust in your understanding and cooperation. Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States, pray for us and for the whole world. St. Patrick, pray for us!