

Guidelines for the Resumption of Public Worship

Archdiocese of Cincinnati – St. Teresa Church, Rockford, OH

Effective immediately, and until further notice:

- **The Catholic faithful who reside in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and all other Catholics in the archdiocese continue to be dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. Those who are at risk or fearful that they or their family might become sick are encouraged to stay home and join the Church by viewing live-streamed Masses.**
- **Public worship may begin in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on Monday, May 25.** Each parish cluster should offer at least one public Mass daily. Pastors may determine whether it is necessary and prudent to celebrate more than one Mass on Saturday and Sunday. Here it should be remembered that the faithful have been dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Thus, those who wish to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion can do so by attending any Mass any day of the week. For the benefit of the faithful, the live-streaming of liturgies will continue. Family members are invited to bring Holy Communion to elderly and at-risk family members. The health and safety of vulnerable priests should also be considered in this regard.
Due to the increasing number of positive cases in Mercer County, medical professionals and area pastors are advising that we delay resumption of Masses one week.
 - *Celina Cluster week days Masses will resume Monday, June 1st*
 - *Celina Cluster weekend Mass schedule resumes Saturday, June 6th with the addition of a 4:30 PM Saturday Mass at St. Teresa during coronavirus restrictions only.*
 - *Communion Services will resume Monday, June 29th*
- **In all circumstances, appropriate social distancing and the regulations put forth by public health authorities must be observed.** We are striving to creatively regulate the number of people in the church at one time, spacing people around the nave to ensure appropriate distancing. The SAMPLE Social Distancing Seating diagram is not an actual required seating chart but a sample of what social distancing seating may look like. We are hopeful that parishioners will be able to self-regulate Mass times and attendance to accommodate all who wish to attend. If not, we will consider online reservations or other ways to pre-register to gauge expected attendance.

Guidelines to be observed:

- All faithful are reminded they have been dispensed from their Sunday obligation, and thus their desire to participate in Mass could be fulfilled on any day of the week.
- The faithful are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask out of genuine love and concern for all, especially entering and leaving and whenever interacting with others; priest, deacon, ministers of Holy Communion will wear a face mask when distributing Holy Communion in pews; priest celebrant is discouraged from wearing a mask during Mass.
- Ushers will prop doors open before and after Mass, contingent on weather, to reduce contact points.
- Water removed from baptismal and holy water fonts.

- Collection basket will be placed at the entrance asking parishioners to make offering as they enter church. Ushers gather collection during Creed or Prayer of the Faithful and lock in sacristy safe cabinet.
- Hymnals, missalettes, and other materials have been removed from the pews.
- One time use worship aides will be available for each Mass (One License permit) with recycle receptacles available after Mass. Ushers possibly pass out or place on tables. Encourage parishioners not to leave anything in pews.
- Every other pew will be used for each mass to assure social distancing and reduce the need for cleaning in between Masses. **Saturday, 4:30 PM Green pews only, Sunday, 10 AM Blue pews only.** For the safety of all and to assure access for Eucharistic Ministers distributing Holy Communion in the empty rows of pews at each Mass, please respect and follow color designations for seating.
- Please note the SAMPLE Social Distancing Seating diagram is not an actual required seating chart but a sample of what social distancing seating may look like.
- Ushers asked to encourage/help people begin seating in the front of church, sit as families and individuals sit in areas that would allow maximum seating.
- Utilize auxiliary but connected spaces to maximize capacity.
 - Extra chairs available in the entrance of Church.
- No offertory procession with gifts or other parishioners.
- No physical contact at the Our Father or Sign of Peace.
- Holy Communion will be distributed to parishioners remaining in alternating pews by priest, deacon and EM's wearing masks and using empty rows of pews to reach all parishioners.
 - No Holy Communion from the chalice by the faithful.
 - Holy Communion on the tongue is strongly discouraged. If parishioner is insistent receiving on the tongue, communion distributor must stop and sanitize hands before proceeding.
- Ushers asked to count the number of attendees at Mass to anticipate future crowds.
- Parishioners are asked to remove all items after Mass. Recycle boxes for one time use worship aides will be at the entrances of church.
- Parishioners are asked to dismiss from the back of church first, or closest to entrances, respecting social distancing.
- Bulletins will be available after Mass in bulletin racks.

HEALTH SAFETY

- A task force of St. Teresa parishioners who are health and safety professionals was assembled to advise the on these guidelines and following health safety measures.
- Hand sanitizers available at each entrance.
- All commonly used contact points are cleaned and disinfected frequently, especially those touched often by multiple people, even between liturgies.
 - Doors, knobs, restroom faucets, other multiple contact points after each Mass
 - Pews will be cleaned on weekly, before or after Sunday Masses and during the week if needed.
 - Additional cleaning during the week as needed.
- St. Teresa Staff occasionally open all doors 15 to 20 minutes to air out church. Once AC is running, drawing in outside air, it will help to refresh the church.