



SAINTS JOACHIM & ANN CATHOLIC PARISH

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THE RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP AT STS. JOACHIM & ANN PARISH **Norms and Guidelines Regarding Worship and other Parish Activities**

Daily Eucharist will resume at 6:30 & 8:00am, Monday through Friday, beginning Mon. May 18th
Sunday Eucharist will resume the weekend of May 23-24th at 5:00 and 7:00 pm on Saturday evening and on Sunday morning at 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 am.

GENERAL NORMS:

--- The Christian Faithful in the entire State of Missouri are dispensed by their proper (Arch)Bishop from the obligation of the Third Commandment to participate in Eucharist on Sunday until further notice. This dispensation also applies by extension to the so-called Easter Duty for annual Confession and reception of Holy Communion during the Easter Season.

--- Those who are themselves symptomatic or who have been exposed to someone with the COVID-19 virus within the previous 14 days are not permitted to enter the church. This is in accordance with national, state, and local health directives.

--- All who intend to participate in the celebration of Eucharist are to check their temperature at home before coming to church. Temperature must be in the normal range in order to enter the church. You are on your honor as a matter of conscience regarding the wellbeing of your fellow parishioners.

--- Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue and those who are over 60 years of age are strongly encouraged, for the sake of their own health, to stay at home and to view Mass via livestream.

--- Livestreaming of the celebration of Eucharist will continue on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for as long as necessary.

--- In compliance with local and state Health Officials, each celebration of Eucharist must have an assembly of less than 10% of the occupancy limit of the Church if the square footage exceeds 10,000 square feet. Therefore at Sts. Joachim & Ann no assembly may exceed 80 people (in addition to liturgical ministers and livestreaming crew).

--- Pews, restrooms, door handles, microphones, and variously touched portions of the church will be sanitized with food-service approved industrial sanitizer after each celebration of Eucharist.

SIGNING UP TO COME TO WORSHIP IS REQUIRED:

--- Every household intending to come to worship must register in advance each week to attend a particular Mass in observance of Sunday. There are no exceptions. Because of capacity limitations from local and State Health Officials, no admittance to Sunday Eucharist can be granted without pre-registration.

--- Registration for worship will occur through an online portal on the parish website (www.stsja.org).

--- If you don't have access to a computer, you may register for Mass by calling the parish office between 9:00 am and Noon, Monday through Friday prior to the Sunday in question, and an office worker will enter your registration online for you.

--- Once registered online you will receive a verification email which will provide you a link to a verification document that you will need to print and bring with you to Mass in order to be admitted to church. Those who register by phone will need to pick up their verification document from the rectory by 5:00 pm on Friday afternoon prior to the Sunday in question.

PREPARING TO COME TO EUCHARIST:

--- Everyone is to take their temperature and that of each family member before leaving home to assure that it is in the normal range.

--- Everyone must wear a mask which covers the nose and mouth in order to enter the church. The mask must be worn at all times throughout the Mass with the single exception of the moment of receiving Holy Communion. There are no exceptions to this requirement for an ordinary individual. CDC guidelines allow only that children under 2 years of age or anyone physically incapable of removing their own mask should not wear one.

--- All hymnals and other materials have been removed from the pews. Everyone will have to print your own copy of the weekly worship aid which will be posted in the parish Facebook Group (Parishioners of Sts. Joachim & Ann) and on the parish website (www.stsja.org). You will need to bring your own worship aid with you and take it home with you after Mass.

--- Social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained from the time you exit your vehicle when you arrive until you reenter your vehicle to depart. There may be no gathering or socializing anywhere on the parish campus.

--- All will be required to enter Church through the front doors, where you will display your verification document to the usher(s).

WHILE YOU ARE PRESENT FOR EUCHARIST:

--- Only members of the same household may sit together in church. Every household (grouping or individual) must remain 6 feet apart from any other household (grouping or individual).

--- Only the odd numbered pews from front to back will be available for use. The folding chairs in the east and west additions to church have also been arranged in rows 6 feet apart front to back.

--- There will be no passing of the basket for gathering the Offering. Baskets will be in place near the Sanctuary where you may place your Sunday Offering after you have received Holy Communion and while you are on your way back to your pew.

--- There will be no exchange of the Greeting of Peace

FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

--- Holy Communion will be distributed only under the form of the Consecrated Host. The Precious Blood will not be distributed to the assembly.

--- Holy Communion may be received in the hand only per the requirements of State Health Officials.

--- There will only be 3 ministers distributing Holy Communion: one at the center aisle in front of the Altar, one at the east front exit of church adjacent to the school hallway, and one at the west front exit of church. Holy Communion must be approached single file in all three places. Therefore, in the center aisle there will be only one line for approaching Holy Communion.

--- Floor markings will guide communicants in maintaining 6-foot social distancing while approaching Holy Communion. The same distancing is to be maintained while returning to your pew.

--- As each communicant stands before the Communion Minister, the communicant is to lower their mask below the chin in order to prepare to consume the Consecrated Host. Immediately after consuming the Consecrated Host, the mask is to be put back over one's nose and mouth.

--- Those distributing Holy Communion will do so with their mask in place. They will use hand sanitizer at the Altar prior to being given a ciborium of Consecrated Hosts for distribution. The Consecrated Host is to be placed in the open palm of the communicant without touching the communicant's hand as much as possible.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF MASS:

--- The assembly will be ushered to leave row by row

--- Each family or individual is to make their way directly to their vehicle in an orderly fashion and depart from the parish campus.

--- There are to be no gatherings or socializing of any sort – neither in the Gathering Space nor in the parking lot.

REGARDING THE CELEBRATION OF OTHER SACRAMENTS AND OTHER DEVOTIONS:

--- The regular celebration of the Sacrament of Penance on Saturdays from 4:00 until 4:45 pm will resume on Saturday, May 23rd. The Sacrament is to be celebrated anonymously, behind the screen only. A mask must be worn at all times while inside the church and social distancing must be observed while waiting to celebrate the Sacrament.

--- Regular times for Eucharist Adoration will resume as of Saturday evening, May 23rd. All who come for adoration must bring hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes and are to wipe down the pew where you have sat or knelt before you leave. A mask must be worn at all times while inside the Church.

--- In keeping with the spirit of our parish patrons, who are the grandparents of the Lord Jesus, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at some time in August or September when, hopefully, the grandparents of the Confirmandi can be present.

--- In keeping with the spirit of our parish patrons, who are the grandparents of the Lord Jesus, First Holy Communion will be celebrated at some time in August or September when, hopefully, the grandparents of the First Communicants can be present.

--- Because of the bodily contact that is necessitated in the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception into the Church for adults, the Sacraments of Initiation for those in RCIA will be scheduled at a time that works for the Catechumens and Candidates once some of these current restrictions and guidelines have been eased.

--- The celebration of infant Baptism will be scheduled individually with each family having a child to be baptized. Parents will be expected to participate in a Baptismal Preparation session after the Baptism, once it becomes possible to have parish meetings.

REGARDING ALL OTHER PARISH-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

--- We will acknowledge the accomplishments of our graduating 8th Graders at a Sunday Eucharist some time during the summer once these current guidelines and restrictions have been eased.

--- Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 22nd. That will remain tentative until we get notification that guidelines and restrictions concerning social distancing have been eased.

--- The Parish Office will remain closed to the public. Our office staff will continue working from home and will continue to do their best to meet your needs. Please contact them by email if at all possible.

--- The School Office, Office of Religious Education, and PSR Office will not have regular office hours. It will be best to communicate with them via email and they will respond promptly to your needs.

--- All athletic activities for spring and summer sports, including practices, have been cancelled.

--- All other parish organizational meetings, activities, and events will remain suspended until the regulations have been eased a bit more.