

# PANDEMIC MASS PLAN



May 29, 2020

ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH

**YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS ... WE'VE GOT ANSWERS**

## PANDEMIC MASS SCHEDULE

*Effective Wednesday, May 27, 2020*

<b>Monday</b>	<i>No Mass or Communion Service</i>	<b>Saturday</b>	<i>Confession 4:15 PM – 4:45 PM</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 PM	<b>Saturday</b>	5:00 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 AM
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 PM	<b>Sunday</b>	11:00 AM
<b>Friday</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Sunday</b>	<i>No 6pm Mass</i>

**PLEASE NOTE: Only 250 attendees will be permitted per Mass. To avoid reaching max occupancy, please consider attending Mass on a weekday rather than the weekend if your schedule allows.**

### WHY HAS THE MASS SCHEDULE CHANGED?

The rationale for this schedule is to make Mass more available during the week. Remember that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is lifted for the foreseeable future. The Sunday 6pm Mass is being temporarily canceled since it is the least attended Mass in the last 3 years.

### I AM CONCERNED ABOUT RISK-EXPOSURE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Those who are at risk, apprehensive, or hesitant that they or their family might become sick from gathering in a group are advised and encouraged to remain home and participate via a live-streamed Mass. Also, if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of any sickness, please be charitable to your fellow Christians and stay home.

### WILL ONLINE SERVICES STILL TAKE PLACE?

Yes, although we will no longer continue with the Liturgy of the Word recordings, we will soon be live-streaming the 9am Sunday Mass from St. Christopher. More information will soon be communicated as details are developed. Please continue to check the parish website for more information on how to celebrate Mass with us via live-stream.

### CAN I COME TO THE CHAPEL TO PRAY?

Yes, the Chapel will remain open for private prayer during office hours.

### CAN I RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION?

Beginning on Saturday, May 30, 2020, the Sacrament of Confession will resume every Saturday from 4:15pm to 4:45pm. Please follow the guidelines as listed in the **Healthy Worship Protocol** section below.

### HAS THE POLICY FOR COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND CHANGED?

By a directive given by Archbishop Schnurr, in order to further protect the health of the sick and of those administering to them, individuals will not be able to pick up Communion or take Communion to others. Communion is to be reserved only for the critically ill or dying. Similarly, the administration of the Sacrament of Anointing will also be reserved for the critically ill and dying. Admission of clergy varies by institution. Please check with the institution prior to calling the parish office to make sure clergy will be admitted.

### ARE MASSES BEING SAID FOR CURRENT MASS INTENTIONS?

Yes, Mass intentions will resume per Mass. If you have any questions or needs regarding Mass intentions, please contact our office administrator, Bonnie Prine.

# HEALTHY WORSHIP PROTOCOL

In order to protect the health and safety of all joining together in worship, several guidelines and changes have been made regarding how we will gather. Please review these important changes towards practicing healthy worship as a gathered community:

**MASKS:** Face masks are advised and encouraged to be worn at Mass.

**MASS OCCUPANCY:** Temporary capacity for Mass is 250.

- Once the church is at capacity, the front doors will be locked.

**ENTERING CHURCH:** Enter church through the front doors only.

- The front church doors will be unlocked 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass (*except on Saturday when confessions begin at 4:15*).
- The back doors will remain locked.
- Due to the need to physical distance, gathering is not permitted in the Gathering Space.
- Upon entering church, please pick up a bulletin, enter the nave, and find a seat.
  - **A worship aid is in the bulletin.** Please take the bulletin and worship aid with you when you leave. *Do not place them back in the Gathering Space.*
  - Missalettes and hymnals have been removed from the pews because of sanitizing issues.
- Follow the directions given by the ushers.

**SEATING:** Households should sit together, but everyone else needs to keep 6 feet apart.

- The Day Chapel will not be used for additional seating because it is a small space.

**DONATIONS:** Collection baskets will not be passed.

- The tower will be placed in the Gathering Space to drop in your donations.
- You may also mail or drop donation envelopes at the office.

**OUR FATHER/SIGN OF PEACE:**

- Do not hold hands during the Our Father.
- Do not physically shake hands, hug, or kiss at the Sign of Peace (*exception is with members of your own household*).

**COMMUNION:**

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will wear masks when distributing communion.
- Ushers will continue to release pews for reception of communion, and there will be a **new communion procession** to eliminate congestion.
- Those not receiving communion will not receive a blessing since touching is forbidden during the pandemic.
- Communicants are to receive in the hand and not on the tongue.
  - *This is a safety issue for all who are receiving communion after you.*
- The cup will not be offered for communion.

**EXITING CHURCH:** At the end of Mass, ushers will dismiss you by rows.

- Please heed their directions and do not gather in church.
- You may exit through any door.

## SANITIZING OF THE CHURCH

Please know that the church will be cleaned and disinfected to the best of our ability after all Masses. However, we can't guarantee anybody's health. As much as we anticipate celebrating Mass with all of you present in church, our first concern is your well-being. Please talk with family, friends, and medical professionals about returning to public worship at Mass. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to help you make the wise choice of when is the right time for you to return to worship at Mass. We will be here for you.

## PARISH OFFICE AND BUILDINGS

### IS THE PARISH OFFICE STILL OPEN?

Yes, but we ask that you only come to the office if it is absolutely necessary. Our parish office hours are as posted below until further notice:

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Mon. – Fri.** 10:00am – 2:00pm                      **Sat. & Sun.** Closed

### PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

**May 25, 2020** Memorial Day                      **July 3, 2020** Independence Day

### HOW CAN WE REACH THE STAFF?

Whether the parish staff continues to work from the office or from home, they are still available via their office phone numbers and email. Please feel free to leave voice mail or email messages. We do ask that you please use discretion on the urgency/need when contacting us as we are experiencing an overwhelming increase in calls/emails. You will be answered as promptly as possible.

### PARISH PHONE (937) 898-3542

#### STAFF EXTENSION:

<b>Office</b>	0	<b>Tim Francis</b>	108	<b>Elise Sas</b>	105
<b>Fr. John</b>	103	<b>Andrea Parker</b>	109	<b>Elena Pope</b>	104
<b>Bonnie Prine</b>	101	<b>Mary Lauterbach</b>	124	<b>Kelly Schmitmeyer</b>	937-538-1762

#### STAFF EMAIL:

<b>Fr. John</b>	jtonkin@stchristopheronline.com	<b>Mary Lauterbach</b>	mlauterbach@stchristopheronline.com
<b>Bonnie Prine</b>	bprine@stchristopheronline.com	<b>Elise Sas</b>	esas@stchristopheronline.com
<b>Tim Francis</b>	tfrancis@stchristopheronline.com	<b>Elena Pope</b>	epope@stchristopheronline.com
<b>Andrea Parker</b>	aparker@stchristopheronline.com	<b>Kelly Schmitmeyer</b>	gkschmit@woh.rr.com

## COMMUNICATION

### HOW CAN I GET THE LATEST UPDATES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARISH DURING THIS TIME?

The best place to get information during this time is our **parish website**, weekly **parish emails**, our **myParish app** and **Facebook page**. For those who do not use computers, weekly newsletters will be mailed, and all updates will be included. We suggest you check these communication avenues frequently as changes continue to come to us rapidly. You can also call/email the parish office during operating hours.

## SACRAMENTS

### WHAT IS THE STATUS OF BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS?

We will resume celebrating all baptisms, weddings, and funeral services at St. Christopher Church. However, receptions will not be permitted at this time. All Sacramental Masses and services are expected to observe the guidelines (*as apply*) in the **Healthy Worship Protocol** (*see page 3*).

### WILL THERE BE A MASS TO CELEBRATE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION OR TO RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY?

Yes, plans are currently in process to safely celebrate these important and long-awaited Sacraments. Information will first be communicated by the directors of each Sacrament to the participants. More information will be communicated to the parish community once plans have been confirmed. Please continue to pray for those receiving various Sacraments.

## PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS

### WILL PARISH SMALL GROUPS BE STARTING BACK UP SOON?

No, not at this time. Currently the permission to resume public worship pertains to Mass and Sacramental celebrations. While we are eager to resume our regular faith formation groups, we are unable to safely nor effectively maintain a healthy worship space if we resume our small group gatherings. At this time, please consider joining any online formation opportunities that are presented through our parish or feel free to contact our Ministry Directors for ideas on how you can add to your at-home formation experience.

- **Adult Faith Formation:** *contact Andrea Parker (see page 4, STAFF section)*
- **Youth Faith Formation (preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> grade):** *contact Elise Sas (see page 4, STAFF section)*
- **Youth Ministry (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade):** *contact Elena Pope (see page 4, STAFF section)*

### WHAT IS THE STATUS OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES?

- **Food Donations** – Food donations may be brought to the food carts located at the church entrance.
- **The St. Vincent Lunch Ministry** will continue as scheduled. Drop off location will relocate to the Emmaus Center, North parking lot.
- **The Parish Prayer Chain** is an excellent way to help via prayer. Whether you would like to be added to the email group to pray for others needs or if you have a specific prayer intention you would like for parishioners to pray for, please contact Donna Kitta at (937) 454-0481 or email [donna10680@aol.com](mailto:donna10680@aol.com).
- **Plastic Bags** – Please do **NOT** bring in any more plastic bag donations for the time being.
- Follow our **St. Christopher Parish Facebook** page for the latest announcements, continued spiritual growth, and community.
- Join our **Parish Facebook group: St. Chris Cares** to participate in or view some of our fun challenge responses, videos, photos, and more from our very own St. Chris community during these times of social distancing. If you're looking for a smile, laugh, or some cheering up – it's a great place to go!
- **The St. Christopher School and The Center for Children Facebook pages** are also a great place to visit to check out some of the fun, uplifting, and creative posts that are happening among our young community.

### HOW CAN I GET HELP?

If you have specific needs, please call the parish office, and if we cannot locate help within the parish, we will assist you in finding the help you need. We are here for you and will help you in any way that we reasonably can.

## FINANCES/CONTRIBUTIONS

### HOW CAN I MAINTAIN MY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE PARISH?

As you stay home to protect your well-being and the well-being of your family, we ask you to continue supporting the parish if your finances allow.

**There are several ways to continue your financial support of the parish:**

- Mail your donation to the parish office at:  
**St. Christopher Church**, 435 E. National Rd., Vandalia, OH 45377
- Call your bank and set up automated bank checks that will be mailed to the parish from your bank.
- Go to our **parish website** and click the **Online Giving** button on the home page to set up an automatic donation from your credit card or checking/savings account.
- Consider a stock or IRA Qualified Distribution donation by contacting your financial planner.
- Call Tim Francis in the parish office for credit card donations.
- Make your donation through our **myParish Mobile App**.



# NEW PROCESS FOR COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

