



THE NEXT STEP IN RE-OPENING THE CHURCH: Daily Mass at 8AM begins May 18

May 15, 2020

My Parish Family,

We are looking forward to getting you back in your parish home for Daily Mass at 8am in the church, beginning Monday, May 18, 2020.

Some things will be so familiar – and you will find some things that are new in this pandemic time. Those new and temporary things we will talk you through when you are here so you will know exactly what is expected of you.

The most important thing for us is getting you back into your parish home at Saint Mary Magdalen and into the sacramental life of your Church – when the time is right and whenever you are ready, we happily await that day.

Before you come to church

We encourage those considered in the populations most vulnerable to the coronavirus to refrain from being in public crowds, as health experts advise. As well, we ask that you do a self-assessment of the latest Covid-19 symptoms and to respond with prudence and consideration of others if you do not feel well.

If you plan to join us for Daily Mass at 8am

You will need a face covering to enter the church for the safety and well-being of all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When you arrive, before you may enter the church, you will need to stop by our hospitality tent to check in. With that in mind, we recommend you arrive in plenty of time prior to the start of Mass.

Our greeter and usher teams will direct everyone to a pew to maintain social distancing. Members of the same family may sit together. For safety reasons, our occupancy has been reduced, so we appreciate your patience and understanding should we reach that limit.

Temporarily, distribution of communion will take place at the end of Mass, after which you will be asked to exit the church. We will accompany and direct you through all these short-term practices.

Sunday Mass Livestream

Our daily Masses, Monday-Saturday at 8am and 7pm Thursday (Spanish), will continue to also be available via livestream. On Sundays, Mass at 10am in English and 12noon in Spanish will continue to be online only, for May 17 and May 24. We are now putting together our plans and schedules to celebrate Pentecost Sunday in the church with you.

Let's keep each other in our prayers as we move forward.

God bless you and God keep you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Charlie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Charlie, Pastor



**SAINT MARY
MAGDALEN**

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SAINT MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC PARISH: GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR OUR WAY FORWARD

I want to share with you some of the guiding principles that have shaped how we at the parish will make “Our Way Forward”, preparing to safely gather again for Mass, the Sacraments, prayer, and at the appropriate time, for ministry and school. While practices may evolve, these guiding principles will inform our work during and beyond the current pandemic crisis.

1. People will be our priority.

Plans and activities will incorporate precautions to help protect the health and safety of our parishioners and our guests, our students, our staff and clergy. We will create processes for safety in tandem with our mission to serve the spiritual needs of our parish family as well as the community that turns to the church in this time of need. We will be attentive to the vulnerable populations at high risk and be as flexible as reasonably possible to accommodate those who are not yet ready for in-person activity.

2. We will follow public health and diocesan guidelines.

We will be prudent and intentional in following the guidelines on physical distancing, large-group gatherings, face coverings and other protective measures as outlined by federal, state and local governments, our own public health experts, and the Diocese.

3. Our respect for each other and love of neighbor will be considered in every step we take. We will provide a welcoming experience for all we serve. That experience is driven by our commitment, all of us, to serve as ministers of hospitality, to, in a spirit of collaboration, celebrate our Eucharistic foundation and our mission to accompany, comfort and be “sacrament” to one another. We will stay true to our mission to spread the joy of the Gospel and be Christ to others.

4. Our transitions will be measured, careful and flexible.

As we monitor prevailing public guidelines, decisions will be prayerfully and strategically reviewed, assessing the impact of each new step before proceeding to the next. We will seek input from our parish leaders, especially those who have expertise in the unique challenges of health and safety. We will respond in real time, yet with patience and prudence. We will inform and educate the parish and the public along the way.

5. We will be good stewards as we manage our financial gifts and human resources for the challenges and opportunities ahead.