



ST. THERESA PARISH FUNERAL MASS GUIDELINES

Anyone with a temperature, a cough of any sort, or feeling ill, should not come to the church for Mass. If you are in a high-risk group, or even apprehensive about attending Mass, we ask you to please stay home.

CAPACITY/SEATING AND CHURCH ENVIRONMENT:

- Masses are limited to 100 people, based on Alameda County and State guidelines, and must be strictly enforced. This includes clergy, liturgical ministers, and staff/volunteers.
- Seating will be in the open pews designated with a green check mark.
- Those living in the same household may sit together without distancing.
- All doors and windows **must remain open** during church services. This will allow for better air flow through the church.
- The Church Hall will be closed with no access to the hall restrooms.
- The restroom by the right front side exit will be the only restroom available for emergency use.
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BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

- Wash your hands
- For those 2 and up, **FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED** on our campus and during Mass.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer that can be used before receiving Holy Communion.
- **Do NOT** bring items that contain bleach into the church as this will damage the pews.
- Please do not bring food items into the church.

MASS ARRIVAL PROCEDURES:

- Masks (for ages 2+) should be worn as soon as you exit your vehicle.
- Arrive 20 minutes before Mass begins.
- Your temperature will be taken before you enter the church. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 will not be allowed to enter the church.
- A volunteer will seat your household similar to boarding an airplane. Please use the hand sanitizer at the stands by the door before being seated.
- Pews will be marked with either a ✓ or a ⊘ indicating whether a pew is open or closed.
- You may be sharing a pew with another household, but social distance is required between the households (6ft).
- There will be no seating in the choir area or standing in the back of the church.
- The holy water fonts will remain empty.
- The votive candles in the vestibule will not be available during Mass.

MASS PROCEDURES:

- The casket will be placed in the aisle in front of the altar before Mass begins. There will be no entrance procession.
- Communion will be distributed by clergy and parish staff only.
- Face masks must be worn for the duration of Mass.
- There will be no physical contact between households at the Sign of Peace or hand holding during the Lord's Prayer.
- Missalettes will not be available for use. **No items are to be left in the pews following Mass.**

COMMUNION:

- The distribution of Holy Communion will take place at the usual place in the Mass.
- The Precious Blood will not be offered to the congregation.
- Use of personal hand sanitizer before communion is strongly encouraged.
- Communion will be distributed using the two side aisles. Please follow the directions of the Priest.
- Masks **MUST** be worn in the communion line. After the priest offers you communion please step to the side, pull your mask down, consume the Eucharist, and then re-mask and return to your seat using the center aisle.

MASS DEPARTURE PROCEDURES:

- Remain in your pew until an usher instructs you to leave using the exit indicated by the usher.
- Do not leave anything in the pew when you leave, you will not be able to return to the church to retrieve items.
- Private prayer is not available after the Mass.
- Clergy and staff will not be available outside following Mass.
- Please do not congregate outside but head directly to your vehicle.
- PLEASE drive slowly and carefully in the parking lot, school will be in session Monday - Friday.

MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES:

- You will not be able to bring items into the church (programs, books for people to sign, photographs or flowers).
- Holy Cards may be handed out as people leave the church.
- No water bottles, food or Kleenex boxes are allowed in the church.
- If there is a flower cascade on the casket it must be removed and placed outside before the service begins..

You are reminded to follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health. If you fall into an "at risk" category, please stay home.