



## ST. THERESA PARISH PUBLIC MASS GUIDELINES

**With permission being granted to begin public Masses we want to remind you that the dispensation from attending Mass remains in effect in the Diocese of Oakland. Our Sunday 10:00 am Live-Stream Mass will remain available.**

**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, and join us for Mass via live-stream.**

This is the first phase of our parish reopening and will have many new protocols that all parishioners must follow to attend Mass. These procedures will be reevaluated weekly. If you would like to attend Mass, please read through the details below – thank you for your patience and compliance.

### **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES & WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:**

- Saturday Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm (schedule to be announced)
- Sunday Mass, 10:00 am. This Mass will also be live-streamed.
- A Flocknote Signup will be sent out each Monday for you to reserve a seat for yourself/household for the upcoming Sunday Mass.
- There is a limit of 1 request per family per weekend, and all requests and seat assignments will be randomly selected to ensure equal opportunity and fairness.
- For those who do not receive our Flocknotes you may call the parish office Tuesday – noon Thursday to reserve a seat (510.547.2777, Ext, 120).
- Those who show up without a seat reservation will be placed in a standby line and will be seated only if capacity is not met due to “no-shows”

### **CAPACITY/SEATING AND CHURCH ENVIRONMENT:**

- For now, Masses will be 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 pre-assigned by registration.
- 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.

#### **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 – 30 minutes before Mass begins to stand in line. Church access will close at 9:55 am when the live-stream begins.
- Seating for Mass will begin 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass.
- 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.
- You will be seated based on your seat reservation.
- 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.
- Seat cushions will no longer be available. You may bring your own and ***must*** take it with you when you leave, or it will be disposed of.
- The votive candles in the vestibule will not be available during weekend Masses. They will be available for private prayer Monday – Friday.

#### **MASS PROCEDURES:**

- Masses will be conducted as you have seen on the live-stream with reduced volunteer lay ministers. There will be no altar servers, eucharistic ministers, choirs, or lay sacristans.
- 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.
- Baskets will not be passed during the offertory. Please place your weekly gift in the basket by the exit door as you exit the church, we strongly encourage online giving through: [ParishSoft Online Giving](#)
- Missalettes will not be available for use. A worship aid will be made available through our Friday Flocknote that you may print and bring with you. **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 Ushers.
- 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:**

- The two side doors and the church mains door will be used as exits following Mass.
- 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 Weekend Masses.
- You can drop your weekly offering as you depart.
- Clergy and staff will not be available outside following Mass.
- Please do not congregate outside but head directly to your vehicle.
- Please maintain a sense of reverence as you leave the church. Walk-up Holy Communion will be available in the parking lot for those who did not attend Mass.
- PLEASE drive slowly and carefully in the parking lot as people will be leaving Mass and arriving for Walk-Up Holy Communion at the same time.

**CHURCH CLEANING PROCEDURES:**

- We will continue to implement cleanliness and sanitization practices, including cleaning pews following all Masses.
- Disinfecting bathrooms, door handles, and other frequently touched surfaces will occur following all Masses.
- The cleaning team will be required to wear face masks and gloves.
- Parish staff will be required to wear face masks, wash hands and will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

You are reminded to follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health. If you fall into an “at risk” category, please stay home and join us by Live-Stream.