

St. Agnes Catholic Church Reopening Plan

As we begin to transition back to the public celebration of Mass, we will be following the guidelines put in place by the Diocese for everyone's health and safety. Those who are vulnerable due to their age or health, and those who are fearful about attending Mass because of the spread of the Coronavirus, are encouraged to still remain at home. **Even though churches are reopening, the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.** We appreciate your patience and understanding during these initial weeks as we all adapt to the new directives for the public celebration of Mass.

Mass Schedule

Our public celebration of Mass will resume this coming weekend, May 23rd and 24th. Mass times during this phase will be as follows:

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am
Sunday 12:30 pm (Spanish)

Please note that the 8:00 and 10:30 Masses have been combined to a single Mass at 10:00 am.

The doors of the church will be opened 20 minutes before the service. If you arrive before then, please wait in your car until the doors are opened. At the conclusion of Mass, hospitality ministers will facilitate dismissal one pew at a time, starting at the back of the church, in order to allow for social distancing. Please do not gather in the Narthex or outside the church before or after Mass.

Liturgical Celebrations

Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction, and the Anointing of the Sick within the Mass will resume as restrictions are lifted.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

In order to limit potential exposure, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered by appointment only at this time. Please call the church office at (304) 925-2836 or email stap1101char@dwc.org to make an appointment. *(Please wear a mask.)*

General Precautions

1. Parishioners who feel sick in any way and those with any form of a cough should remain at home.
2. Anyone attending Mass must wear a mask/face covering which covers the nose and mouth. Please bring your own mask.
3. Everyone is asked to utilize hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
4. The seating capacity of our church will be 60 during this transitional phase to allow for social distancing. Every other pew will be closed, and designated seating areas will be marked to allow at least 6 feet of separation in between people from different households. (Members of the same household may sit together).
5. We will not be holding hands during the Lord's Prayer at this time, and the sign of peace will be omitted.

Distribution of Communion

1. Those who choose to receive Communion will form a single line and remain six feet apart from others, observing the markings on the floor.
2. After the priest says, "The Body of Christ" and you say, "Amen," approach the priest, stopping an arm's length from him.
3. As a matter of health and safety, you are strongly encouraged to receive in the hand rather than on the tongue at this time.
4. Keep your mask on until you step away from the priest, then lower the mask to consume the Host.
5. Holy Communion may not be received with gloves.
6. Since there is no offertory collection, there will be a basket beside the front pew where you may drop your offering when you come forward to receive Communion.

Please encourage the elderly and vulnerable members of your family to remain at home during this time in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and the U.S. Center for Disease Control. Thank you for your assistance in reopening our church as carefully and safely as possible.

Rev. José Manuel Escalante
Pastor