

## ST. RITA PARISH “SOFT OPEN” TO WORSHIP Q & A

### **When will mass be celebrated?**

Daily Mass will begin Memorial Day, May 25 at 8:45am in St. Mark Chapel. Sunday Mass will begin the weekend of Pentecost, May 30/31 with a Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm, and Sunday Masses at 7:00am, 9:30am and 12:00pm.

### **Am I required to attend Mass?**

You do not have to come to church, the dispensation for Mass obligation remains in effect. We will live-stream our Saturday Vigil Mass, and it will remain online throughout the weekend.

### **Do I have to wear a mask?**

Social distancing and face masks are asked of everyone who comes. If you have never worn a face mask, we ask that you do so out of charity for your brothers and sisters. Feel free to bring your own hand sanitizer.

Furthermore, all parishioners are asked to take their temperature prior to coming to Mass. If it is over 100.4 please stay home. Likewise, anyone not feeling well or anyone in their senior years should consider staying home.

### **Can I bring my children to Mass?**

If you are a family with small children, please only bring them if they will keep a mask on and are old enough to understand and respect the importance of social distancing.

### **Where can I sit?**

Blue tape designates “unavailable” seating. Any blue tape is off limits. All available seating is marked, and you may choose a seat as a family or individual. There is also standing room in the main gathering area.

### **Will there be the Sign of Peace?**

There will be no contact made during the Sign of Peace. Instead of shaking hands, we ask that you bow to your neighbor. Additionally, no offertory baskets will be passed through the pews during Mass. There will be offertory baskets at the doors of the church that we encourage you to use.

### **How will I receive Communion?**

Masked Communicants will approach the Communion station keeping a 6-foot distance and will hand sanitize before approaching. Decals will be placed on the aisle as a guide. Communicants will step to the end line, pull down their mask, and extend their arms as far as possible, cupping their hands together like a cradle. The minister will place the host in the communicants cupped hands without contact. The communicant consumes the host, places their mask back over their nose and mouth, and then exits the church through the main doors.

In the unlikely case of contact between the communicant and the minister, the minister will have a sanitizer station to purify their hands before distributing communion to the next parishioner.

If you are uncomfortable receiving communion, we understand, and we encourage you to remain in your seats during this time and pray the Spiritual Communion prayer.

*Please note: To avoid multiple movements of the assembly during Mass, Father will conclude the mass with a blessing/dismissal and THEN Communion will take place. The distribution of Communion will take place alternating sections so that social distancing is maintained.*

**Will there be the Precious Blood?**

The Precious Blood will only be consumed by the clergy and will not be available to Extra-Ordinary ministers of the Holy Communion or to the Faithful.

**May I visit the church outside of mass times?**

The Tabernacle will be in St. Mark Chapel following each weekday Mass where the Eucharist will be reposed. You may come to pray and be in the presence of the reposed Eucharist, minding social distancing. Anyone who enters the church via St. Mark entrance should wear a mask. St. Mark Chapel entrance doors will be left open Monday through Friday until 2:00pm.

**Will the Sacrament of Reconciliation be offered?**

Yes, Confession will be offered on Saturdays from 1:30pm -2:30pm in the church. Please use the main church entrance doors. There will not be Confessions on Monday afternoons.

**Will there be Holy water?**

The Baptismal Font and the holy water fonts will be empty so that we do not contaminate one another. If you wish to obtain Holy water, you may bring a container and ask a priest to help you.

**How are you cleaning the Church?**

A new sanitizing machine has been purchased that uses a solution with hydrogen peroxide that is finely misted on all surfaces. The church will be disinfected between all Masses. This includes pews, kneelers, bathrooms, and gathering spaces.

***Each moment of every day brings a new revelation and adapting will be the key. Stay close to us and we will make every attempt to communicate any changing protocol so that we all remain healthy as we slowly come back together again as the Body of Christ.***