

Important Notes for Resuming Public Liturgies at St. Vincent's

Based on the guidance received by the State of Indiana and the Diocese of Fort Wayne – South Bend, St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church will reopen for public Masses beginning the weekend of **May 23/24**. **Dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been given by Bishop Rhoades and is extended for all Catholics in the diocese through August 15, 2020, at which point it will be reevaluated.**

St. Vincent's will operate under the following guidelines:

MASS TIMES

NEW MASS TIMES: 5 PM Vigil on Saturday and **7 AM, 10 AM, 1 PM** and **5 PM** on Sunday. (Mass times have been changed to accommodate the cleaning of the facility between all liturgies. The church doors will be locked while the church is being cleaned.)

A 7 PM Mass on Saturday (not public) will be live streamed and archived (saintv.org, Facebook and YouTube).

All weekday Masses will be held in the church (this includes the 6:30 AM and 5:30 PM Masses). The 8 AM daily Mass (Monday through Saturday) will be live streamed and archived (saintv.org, Facebook and YouTube) and are not open to the public.

STRICT SOCIAL DISTANCING

Use doors on the south and east sides of the Church to enter. All doors on the west side of the church will be locked. It is important that people enter through the Gathering Space, if at all possible, and follow the distancing markers and protocol marked in that area. Ushers will direct you.

Ushers will assist with finding seats for family members. There will also be a few overflow seats in the Gathering Space area. Please note that once those seats are filled, any other parishioners will need to attend a different Mass, view the live streamed Mass (available throughout the day) or watch from their vehicle. At this point, due to social distancing guidelines, approximately 450 total people can be in the Church or Gathering Space at any one Mass.

At least 6 feet of space is required between individuals or family units of the same households during Masses.

Every other pew has been marked off and is to be unoccupied to accommodate social distancing. Additionally, there are **X marks** in the middle of the larger pews to allow for social distancing between families in that pew.

Social distancing measures must be adhered to:

in the Gathering Space	on the way into the Church
when exiting the church	in the restrooms

Ushers will direct people out of the church pew by pew in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Do not remain in the Gathering Space to visit after Mass.

WHO MAY ATTEND

Anyone with a cough or fever, or who may otherwise be feeling sick, should NOT come to church for Mass or even for a visit.

If you are vulnerable (over age 65, have underlying at-risk health conditions) you should not attend Mass at this time until restrictions have been lifted.

OTHER GENERAL HEALTH PROTOCOLS

All congregants, except for infants and toddlers and those who would have trouble breathing, **MUST** wear face coverings (**masks**) out of concern for fellow parishioners.

Use hand sanitizer which is available upon entry to the Gathering Space.

Refrain from holding hands during the Our Father.

Exchange the Sign of Peace with **NO PHYSICAL CONTACT** (for example, a head bow).

Collection baskets are available in the Gathering Space area.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended.

For those who desire Holy Communion and are comfortable doing so, we will process forward section by section. Follow all social distance protocol in the aisles. Every family unit must maintain a 6 foot distance between other individuals or family units.

Gloves should not be worn by anyone receiving Holy Communion.

Please be patient as we all work to celebrate the Holy Mass together in a way that is safe for everyone!