

Reopening of St. Irene Church

Para obtener una copia de esta carta en español, visite el sitio web de St. Irene en www.st-irene.org o comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial en parishoffice@st-irene.org o 630-393-2400 x110.

July 2020

Hello St. Irene Family,

We pray that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. St. Irene has been certified to reopen for live Mass, and we can't wait to welcome you back! After consulting with Fr. Clive Otieno, our new pastor, we will be having **our first live in-person Mass on July 12 at 10:00am. Sunday 10am** Masses will continue to be live-streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages. A reminder that Bishop Pates has dispensed all Catholics in the diocese from any obligation to attend in-person Masses.

First and foremost, it is important for everyone to understand that our efforts will **prioritize the safety and wellbeing of all** while maintaining due respect and reverence for the sacraments and liturgical norms of our faith. We are adhering to strict guidelines in accordance with the Diocese of Joliet, the State of Illinois and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We will be celebrating the Mass together as a community using social distancing and maximum capacity guidelines. Our Reopening Volunteer Team is ready to receive you, having been trained in the proper protocols. We have obtained the required protective and cleaning supplies. Our Church has been readied with appropriate signs and signals to help with the flow of parishioner traffic patterns.

Instructions for Attending Mass

As a reminder, all people in the "vulnerable population" (i.e. underlying medical condition such as diabetes, lung disease, undergoing cancer treatment, over the age of 60 ...) should consider seriously whether they should attend in-person Masses.

1. **Registration** – In order to minimize the spread of the disease, parishioners will be social distanced and limited to 100. Part of that protocol is to have an online registration system which we have established using **EventBrite**. This will ensure proper contact tracing should it become necessary. Kindly register for ALL Mass attendance. Our Greeter team will be checking the registration list, and unfortunately **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER IF NOT REGISTERED.**

The link to the registration system is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-irene-masses-registration-107608622286>. At the time of registration, you will need to provide the names of all those attending with you. The registration system is very straightforward; start with the "Select A Date" button and follow the instructions. **Note: Until further notice, in-person Masses will be limited to Sundays at 10am.** When your registration is complete, you will receive an email "ticket" that you will need to provide to enter church.

In order to give all parishioners an opportunity to attend, please **limit** your Mass attendance to no more than **twice a month**.

If you do not have access to the internet or email, you may call the Parish Office at 630-393-2400 x110 for assistance.

- 2. Before You Arrive for Mass** – Please do a self-check. Do you feel unwell? Do you have a fever? Are you having trouble breathing? Have you been exposed to someone testing positive for Covid-19? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please stay home and take care of yourself.

Please remember to bring your mask. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE CHURCH WITHOUT A MASK.** Everyone (2 years and older) **must wear their mask at all times** except when receiving communion.

- 3. Arriving for Mass** – Please plan to arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to Mass and no earlier than 30 minutes.

We will **ONLY** be using the front doors to enter and exit the building. All other doors in church will be emergency exit only. The sidewalks out front will be marked to the left and right of the entrance doors at 6-foot social distancing intervals. Please line up at the signs with your household and wait to be called into the church by a Greeter.

The Greeter will follow these protocols:

- ☒ Welcome you to Church.
- ☒ Ask for your registration and check you in.
- ☒ Ask how you are feeling.
- ☒ Take your temperature – if your temperature is 100.0 or higher, the Greeter will take your temperature a second time. If it is still high, you will not be able to enter the Church. Your whole party will have to leave.
- ☒ Spray hand sanitizer on your hands.
- ☒ Ask you to follow the Usher to your seat.

- 4. Assigned Seats** – An Usher will take you to your seat assignment chosen by you at registration. Please sit **only** where the signs are posted on your assigned pew.

Once seated **you may not change seats at any time.**

Please note that the Children’s Chapel (“cry room”) is **CLOSED.**

There will be **limited bathroom use.** Only one person will be allowed at a time and the bathroom will have to be sanitized after any use.

No physical Sign of Peace will be exchanged during Mass.

There will be **no passing of baskets for your offering.** Please deposit your offering in the baskets marked “Collection Basket” located by the Greeters. For your convenience and to reduce risk of contamination, we invite you to provide your offering on-line through our “WeShare Online Giving” program at <https://st-irene.churchgiving.com>.

- 5. Holy Communion** – The **Eucharist may only be received in your hand**, no receiving on the tongue. There will be no Precious Blood. If you are uncomfortable receiving the Eucharist at this time, you are always welcome to remain seated in the pew during Holy Communion.

- 6. To receive Holy Communion:**

- ☒ Listen for instructions announced during Mass.
- ☒ Please follow the directions from the Ushers and the visual markings on the floor.
- ☒ Extend one hand to receive the Host.
- ☒ Do not remove your mask until you and the Eucharistic Minister are 6 feet apart; then remove your mask and consume the Host.
- ☒ Replace your mask.

7. Exiting from Mass – Please take any worship aids you may have brought with you.

You will be dismissed by section, back to front, and the Ushers will guide you to the designated exit doors.

Keep your masks on until you exit the building, and please do not congregate outside the Church doors.

Included in this mailing is the ***“Tips for All Worshipers”*** brochure from the Diocese of Joliet. Please use this as a quick guide of what is expected of you as we come back together to worship.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we come together for our long-awaited Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. All of the dioceses in Illinois, along with the State Health Department and the CDC have put these measures in place to minimize risks and protect our vulnerable populations. These protocols and procedures are new to all of us and there will be questions, bumps, and tweaks along the way. **PLEASE BE PATIENT AND POLITE WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact our Parish Office, 630-393-2400 x110, parishoffice@st-irene.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

St. Irene Parish Re-opening Team