

Welcome Back to Your Spiritual Family!

As we re-open for daily Masses on Monday, May 25th and Sunday Masses on May 31st, please read this carefully so that you are informed about what we are doing to keep our facilities safe and clean, and how we kindly ask you to do your part. We are currently working hard and are looking forward to welcoming you back!

Message from Fr. Mike Ingram, Pastor

Dear St. Teresa of Avila Community,

As many of you know the Diocese of Savannah is now permitting us to re-open our churches to celebrate daily Masses beginning Monday, May 25th and Sunday Masses on Sunday, May 31st. This is a good step forward and we take it with your safety in mind. The Diocese has provided guidelines and best practices to assist parishes in developing plans to reopen for prayer and Mass. The Augusta Deanery parishes have developed reopening plans which will be implemented in unity. We will be following these as well as the other safety precautions put forth. So, beginning Monday, May 25, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. we will have a public Mass again. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place in our church sanctuary 30 minutes before Mass. In *John 20*, the disciples of Jesus were behind locked doors because they were afraid. Fear can be paralyzing. It can prevent us from loving God and neighbor as ourselves. We are called to take care of our families and friends with the precautions against the Covid-19 virus that our government is recommending. Jesus asks us to do this freely and without fear. Resurrection just with a mask and social distancing! As disciples of the Lord here at St. Teresa many people have stepped up to help us continue with the mission of Christ during this recent shutdown. Many of you have been generous in your continued offertory in the face of economic uncertainty; still others have worked very hard to put our Saturday Vigil Mass on livestreaming; and many people have helped our Knights keep the Columbia County Cares Foodbank stocked to serve those in need or who have recently lost their jobs. In addition, I think of our teachers and administrators of our Faith Formation Program and how they have worked through this entire virus crisis. I think of our technology people who have kept us together through online conferencing. Then there are the many people who have simply come to pray at our church. All these people and still others that I have not mentioned help us to move forward fearlessly. John 20 recounts that Thomas was not there the first time Jesus appeared to his disciples. So, the second time Jesus comes to the disciples behind locked doors he invites Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving but believe." Thomas responds, "My Lord and my God." Jesus concludes, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." As we come together again to receive God's word and Eucharist at Mass, let us be that beatitude, that blessing for those who are isolated and afraid. Let us ask God for the grace of humility that we may be thoughtful and respectful of others, courageous and exhibit the love of Resurrection, mask, social distance, and all!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mike Ingram

May 21, 2020

What Can I Expect When I Decide to Come to Mass?

We encourage anyone who is at risk or is sick to please remain home. Dispensation for Sunday obligation is still in effect until the end of June. Our Saturday Vigil Masses will still be live-streamed and recorded. For those who decide to come to Mass, please know that even with the strictest social distancing measures and sanitation, you are still at risk of contracting an illness by entering a public place, like St. Teresa's.

With all that being said, here are some of the changes you can expect when you arrive for Mass:

Welcome back! We missed you!

New Mass Expectations*

All attending Mass:

- a) **Out of love** we ask those over 65, sick, or have health issues to please remain home. Dispensation from Sunday Mass is still in effect to the end of June.
- b) **Strongly encourage** to wear a mask.
- c) **Strongly encourage** to bring personal hand sanitizer
- d) **Strongly recommend** the practice of social distancing in church and all church property.
- e) **Please respect and follow** instructions from Ushers.
- f) **Strongly recommend** receiving the Holy Eucharist in your hand.
- g) **Refrain from** physical contact at Rite of Peace (smile, wave, or nod).
- h) **Strongly encourage** no congregational singing.
- i) **Offertory baskets** will be located at the back of the Sanctuary for Stewardship Contributions.



*** Anyone who attends public mass will be at risk. Even with the best health practices and strict social distancing, anyone who enters a public space, including church, need be aware of the risk. Our church will be cleaning thoroughly, but the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains.**

Details for Reopening Mass

Masses

The clergy and staff of St. Teresa of Avila Parish are looking forward to welcoming you back to our parish to finally celebrate the Eucharist physically together again.

Please note the following:

- We will resume Daily Masses, beginning this Monday, May 25th at 8:30am in the Sanctuary.
- We will resume Sunday Masses, beginning this Sunday, May 31st with the Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm.

Daily Mass Schedule – In Sanctuary		
Monday – Saturday	8:30am	English
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	6:00pm	English
Wednesday	6:00pm	Spanish/English

Sunday Mass Schedule – In Sanctuary		
Saturday – Vigil Mass	4:30pm	Live-Streamed
If necessary, Overflow Mass	5:00pm	In PLC
Sunday	9:00am	English
If necessary, Overflow Mass	9:30am	In PLC
	10:45am	Vietnamese
	12:15pm	English
If necessary, Overflow Mass	12:45pm	In PLC
	2:00pm	Spanish
	5:00pm	English
If necessary, Overflow Mass	5:30pm	In PLC

- We will enter the Church through the two side door entries at the front of the church. Please see picture below for clarification.
- Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm will continue to be live streamed through our website.



May 21, 2020

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

WE KINDLY ASK YOU TO DO YOUR PART!

ALL ATTENDING MASS:

- Strongly encouraged to wear a mask.
- Strongly encouraged to bring personal hand sanitizer.
- Must practice social distancing as marked by St. Teresa's and instructed by Ushers.

*** As you know, entering public spaces carries a greater risk during this pandemic. That is why those who are ill, over 65 or have underlying health issues are urged to stay home.**

PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE AT ST. TERESA OF AVILA PARISH

CELEBRATION OF MASS IN CHURCH

- Admittance to Mass will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- We are limited to 25% capacity of the norm; for us this will be 300 people in the Sanctuary.
- Seating is limited to every other pew. There must be enough space for everyone to maintain social distancing. Families may sit together but must maintain proper distance from others.
- If necessary, we will have an overflow Mass in the PLC. The seating capacity in the PLC is limited to 225 people.
- The faithful should not hold hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- At the Rite of Peace, please refrain from physical contact (smile, wave, or nod).
- Communion will begin with the front rows going first.
- Respectfully follow the instructions from the Ushers.
- **To avoid people crawling over one another**, the usher will ask the entire pew to stand and proceed through the communion line. If you choose not to receive the Holy Eucharist, please remain in line.
- Once you receive communion, **to maintain social distancing**, please proceed back to your pew walking as close to the stained-glass window wall, as possible.
- There will be markers on the floor, indicating how far apart to stand from each other, as each person approaches the front for Communion. A family unit may process up together.
- Strongly recommended to receive Holy Eucharist on your hand. Those requesting on their tongue will be directed to go to the middle Priest/Deacon only.
- There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood.
- Hymnals and missalettes have been removed from all pews. Please refrain from congregational singing.
- Offertory baskets will be in the back of the Sanctuary for Stewardship contributions.
- Restrooms will be limited to 2 people at a time, unless you are a family unit that live together.
- Front and back pews are reserved for those needing physical assistance. Holy Eucharist will be brought to these pews.

May 21, 2020

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We will resume the Sacrament of Reconciliation beginning Monday, May 25th at 8:00am in the Sanctuary Confessionals.

<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule</u>		
Saturday	3:00-4:00pm	Sanctuary
Sunday	10:00-10:30am	Vietnamese (Day Chapel)
Sunday	1:00-1:45pm	Spanish (Day Chapel)
Monday-Saturday	8:00-8:25am	Sanctuary
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	5:30-5:55pm	Sanctuary
Wednesday	6:30-7:30pm	Spanish (Sanctuary)

Eucharistic Adoration

We will re-open our normal Monday-Friday Adoration 9:00am-12:00pm and our Monday night Adoration 7:00pm-10:00pm, as soon possible.

The Morning Glory Ministry which meets Monday-Friday 6:00am-7:45am will resume on Monday, May 25th at 6:00am for Liturgy of the Hour & Eucharistic Adoration. Watch the live-stream on the St. Teresa of Avila Hispanic Ministry Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/stteresadeavilacomunidadhispana/>