

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

Dear Nativity parishioners,

I am pleased to bring you the good news that Nativity will re-open on Tuesday, May 26 for the public celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. We have been waiting for this day to arrive, and we are excited to once again open our doors to all of you.

In an effort to keep everyone safe and comfortable inside the church, we have initiated a number of measures designed to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus. Please read the following carefully. You will notice that we will be doing a few things a little differently than before.

The Sunday Obligation and livestreaming

Though we are able to open the church doors and welcome you once again to the celebration of Mass, the dispensation from the Sunday obligation remains in effect. This means that the aged and vulnerable, their caretakers and those who are particularly fearful of going out in public at this time are not required to attend Mass on Sundays or Holy Days.

- Of course, if you are sick (with the coronavirus or any other contagious illness) or if you have been advised to self-isolate, please do not come to church.
- We also encourage those who may be especially susceptible to this disease, whether due to age, frailty, a compromised immune system, etc., plus those who must care for them, to strongly consider remaining home for the time being.
- We will continue to livestream the Mass on a daily basis for the convenience of those that are unable or do not feel it prudent to attend church right now.

Hand sanitation and protective equipment

Upon entering the church, you will find a number of automated hand sanitizer stations, which we encourage you to use. We also ask everyone who enters the church to kindly wear a mask for the protection of others. The pews and other common surfaces will be sanitized after each Mass for the safety of all.

“Save Me A Seat”

Due to the need to maintain at least six feet of separation from others, we will significantly reduce the number of seating areas in our church. In fact, our capacity will be about 30% of normal. With such limited seating, we want to make sure that no one is turned away.

To ensure that every family who wishes will be able to attend the weekend Mass of their choice, we must ask you to tell us when you are coming. To help with this, we are initiating an online “Save Me A Seat” program, through an app called Eventbrite. It is extremely easy to use.

- Simply go to our website: www.nativityhollywood.org and click the “Save Me A Seat” icon.
- Enter your family name and email address, then simply click your preferred Mass time. That’s it!
- If the maximum number of families has already been reached, you will be asked to select a different Mass time. Please note that our Mass times have changed slightly.

For the time being, we will ask families to save their seats each week. This program is for weekend Masses only – there is no need to reserve your seat for daily Mass. And if you have any trouble at all, simply call our office, and we’ll be happy to save your seat for you!

Once you arrive for weekend Mass, we will ask you to enter through the gazebo (south) side of the Church only, where an usher will quickly check you in. Please sit only in the designated areas.

Updated Mass Schedule

We have also made a few changes to our liturgical schedule for the added convenience of our parishioners and ministries. Below is the new schedule, effective May 26, 2020. All Masses will be celebrated in the main church.

Daily Mass (Monday – Saturday morning)

- 8:15 am
- 6:00 pm

Weekend Mass

- 5:00 pm (Saturday vigil)
- 8:00 am
- 9:30 am
- 11:00 am
- 12:30 pm (Spanish)
- 6:00 pm

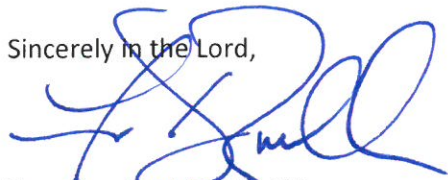
Other

- We will not be using worship aids, missalettes and hymnals for the time being. However, we will print the readings of the Mass and selected music in the bulletin for your convenience. Please take a bulletin and keep it with you. We will not reuse them for later Masses.
- Communion aisles will be marked on the floor to denote six-foot distances. Kindly maintain the required distance from the people in front of you.
- It is not permitted to wear gloves while distributing Holy Communion, nor is it permitted to wear gloves when receiving.
- Please avoid “bunching up” at the church exits after Mass.
- We will also be resuming our home visits with Communion to the homebound. If you wish to be added to this list, please contact the office. In fact, we are anticipating a large increase in the number of requests for “Communion calls” for the elderly and vulnerable. I ask all EMHC’s to kindly consider assisting your fellow parishioners who can’t come to church by bringing them Holy Communion. Please call the office to sign up.
- The reopening date of May 26 is for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments only. I will ask all parish ministries to continue to meet remotely for the time being and to contact me before resuming your regularly scheduled meetings.

As we work our way back to “normal,” we will certainly notice a few differences when we come to Mass compared to before. Hopefully, we will be able to relax some of these measures in the months ahead. The changes discussed above are for the benefit of all, and we ask for your cooperation and patience as we open our doors once more. We not only want you to be safe and feel secure at Mass, but we also want to create an environment in which you can focus on the worship of God, which is the first and most important reason we come to Nativity.

I can’t tell you how much I am looking forward to seeing you all again and to joining together once more as a community in the Holy Mass. Fittingly, our first weekend Mass will be on Pentecost Sunday, the day we remember and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the “birthday” of the Church. We look forward to our “rebirth” as we open up again, and we pray for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us, our families and our entire community. May God bless you all. Hope to see you at Mass!

Sincerely in the Lord,



Very Rev. David Zirilli, V.F.
Pastor