

Back in the pew – what to expect returning to church

The time to return to Historic Church of Saint Patrick (HSP) and Immaculate Conception (The Darby) is less than two weeks away. The opportunity to gather together with our parish family is welcome and exciting for all of us who have celebrated Mass in our homes since March. Even though we will be together, we must remember things have to be different for a while. We need to put the safety of others first to protect the people we care about.

The Diocese of Toledo is committed to following Governor Mike DeWine’s order to “Stay Safe Ohio” and our parishes will see some changes in the church buildings and during Mass.

Special Dispensation granted by Ohio Catholic Bishops

- ♣ It is not required, through Labor Day, to attend Mass in person. Weekly Mass will be live-streamed on Facebook from HSP on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.
- ♣ When attending Mass at church, it is not required to receive Holy Communion.

Mass Schedule every week beginning Sunday, May 31

- ♣ Saturdays – 4 p.m. Mass at The Darby
- ♣ Sundays – 8 a.m. Mass (no music) at HSP for medically vulnerable
- ♣ Sundays – 10 a.m. Mass at HSP – (also live-streamed on Facebook)
- ♣ Sundays – 11 a.m. Mass at The Darby
- ♣ Tuesdays – 9 a.m. Mass at The Darby
- ♣ Wednesdays – 5:30 p.m. Mass at HSP – (also live-streamed on Facebook)

Keeping People Safe...

- ♣ Face masks are strongly suggested for all who attend Mass as a way to care for other parishioners. Masks will be available for those who forget or do not have a mask.
- ♣ The use of gloves is at the discretion of individuals
- ♣ The inside of HSP and The Darby, including pews and bathrooms, will be sanitized before and after each Mass
- ♣ No Holy Water in the fonts
- ♣ Sanitizer stations by each door and by the votive candles
- ♣ Holy Communion will not include the Precious Blood, only the Body of Christ, which must be received in the hand not on the tongue
- ♣ No hymnals or missalettes used for Mass

How will it look in church?

Churches are limited to 50 percent capacity. For both HSP and The Darby, our normal Sunday attendance falls within this diocesan regulation.

- ♣ Every two pews will be roped off to provide six feet of social distancing between family groups
- ♣ One family per pew
- ♣ Gathering spaces are closed and will be roped off from parishioners. The narthex at both churches will only allow people to move through, there will be no congregating. Other areas closed off at HSP include the library, the store and the museum. At The Darby there will be limited access in the back of church
- ♣ Markings on the floor show safe distance of six feet

Cancelled until further notice...

- ♣ Processional
- ♣ Choir
- ♣ Children's liturgy
- ♣ Offertory
- ♣ Sign of Peace
- ♣ Holding hands with non-family members during the Our Father
- ♣ Recessional
- ♣ Hospitality after Mass
- ♣ Congregating after Mass in the building

What will be done differently?

- ♣ Acolytes only when there is no deacon at Mass, and then only one acolyte
- ♣ Communion distributed only by the priest and deacon at Mass, and will happen at the end of Mass as people are dismissed by the ushers beginning with the pews closest to the front doors
- ♣ When there is not a deacon, the Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist should be a parishioner under the age of 65
- ♣ No Precious Blood distributed during Communion, only the Body of Christ received in the hand, not on the tongue
- ♣ Participants in the Mass on the altar should be under the age of 65 or willing to sign a waiver
- ♣ Schedules for Liturgical Ministers are on hold and for the foreseeable future will only include parishioners under the age of 65 without compromising medical conditions or those willing to sign a waiver
- ♣ At the end of Mass at HSP, ushers will dismiss parishioners, pew by pew, beginning with the pews closest to the front doors, to receive Communion and exit the church.

How to adapt...

- ♣ Instead of using a hymnal to follow the readings...
 - Bring a personal Bible or missal to church – both are available from Reger's on Secor Road in West Toledo
 - Download the free phone app Laudate
 - Visit www.usccb.org to follow the readings or print them at home and bring to Mass
 - Listen prayerfully to the Word in church and review the readings at home
- ♣ How to make your weekly contribution
 - Put your envelope in the boxes found at each entrance of the church
 - Contribute through direct deposit
 - Use PayPal option on the website
- ♣ Your regular pew has been roped off
 - Sit in a different place in church for a new perspective
 - Move to a nearby pew
- ♣ How to give the sign of peace
 - Give the international sign of peace – “V” – to people around you
 - Smile and say, “Peace be with you.”
- ♣ Not congregating before or after Mass
 - Remember many of our parishioners may be vulnerable to COVID-19
 - Smile and wave to friends and parishioners
 - Call and talk on the phone after Mass
 - Participate in the HSP Zoom Bible Study on Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. (parishioners from The Darby are welcome, too)

**May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face,
And the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**