



**Saint Patrick Catholic Church
301 Shamrock Trail
Adamsville, Alabama 35005
205-798-5326**

June 1, 2020

Guidelines for Attending Mass Beginning June 6, 2020

I dispense anyone over the age of 60 from attending Mass. Every person must make the decision of what is best for themselves and their families. Stay home if:

1. You are feeling sick, have a cough or have a fever.
2. You have a sick family member at home or have been recently exposed to someone who may be sick – COVID-19 or other illness.
3. You are a primary caretaker of a vulnerable person.
4. You have been traveling or in large crowds.
5. You are at risk because of pre-existing conditions or age.
6. If you would like communion brought to you in your home, please call 205.798.5326 and arrangements will be made.

With this new beginning comes tremendous responsibility. This is not similar to going to the supermarket or the drug store, in and out and constantly in motion. No, attending mass entails that we be static, in place for 30 minutes to an hour. There have to be guidelines for the protection and safety for all. The following guidelines have been established

General:

1. You are asked to gather in front of the church in groups, (Families, Couples or single). Please follow the instructions of the ushers. Gather in front of the church so that entrance into the church will flow. (You may need to get to church 30 -45 minutes early because this may take some time.
2. After arriving to the church, you will move as a group to the vestibule, (maintaining social distancing). You will be seated by an usher, as determined by the number of people in your group and in keeping with COVID 19 protocol. Please respect the directions of the usher.

3. The church has been professionally sanitized; however, I will need volunteers to help sanitize. The volunteers will also sanitize immediately after the mass on Sunday. This will continue for our foreseeable future and additional teams to clean after Mass need to be formed so this crucial preparation for Mass can be rotated.
4. Everyone entering the church must wear a protective face covering. (If you do not have one, one will be provided. Children under 3 are exempt.)
5. Hand Sanitizers are available at the entrance of the church. Your own personal hand sanitizer is preferable. Please sanitize before entering the Church, before receiving Communion and when leaving the Church.
6. All song books, Mass cards and other items in the pews have been removed.
7. The pews will be appropriately marked to ensure the required social distancing.
 - a. We will be staggering seating to every other pew.
 - b. Families may sit together, otherwise there will be 6-foot distancing between people in the church. (A suggested configuration would be that only one family, two couples or four individuals should sit in any open pew.) **BE AWARE THAT YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SIT IN YOUR FAVORITE SEAT.**
 - c. There must be no standing or gathering in the back of the Church.
 - d. Once the pews are full in the church, following the social distancing requirements, you will be asked to be seated in the chapel or the vestibule. Since this will be our first public Mass, we will continue to evaluate the number of people that we can safely accommodate, and we will communicate that to you at a later date.

Liturgical:

1. Because singing is proven to be threat for spreading the virus, there will be no singing at Mass. Music will only be instrumental. (You may hum or sing in your head.)
2. There will be no procession of the gifts.
 - a. The collection basket(s) will be placed on the tables in the back of the church.
 - b. Donations can be placed in the basket as you enter or leave the church.
 - c. Or:
 - i. You may continue to mail in your contribution or use PayPal on the website, or you may drop it by the church.
3. There will be no holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.
4. The Exchange of the Sign of Peace will be omitted.

Holy Communion:

1. Mass will continue with only the priest receiving Holy Communion during the liturgy.
2. The rest of the faithful will receive Holy Communion after mass is concluded.
 - a. I will bring communion to you. Say your Prayer of Thanksgiving and leave the church, observing a 6-foot interval in the Exit line and go to your car.
3. Communion will be under only one species (the Body of Christ) and will be administered only on the hand. (Please refrain from receiving Communion on the tongue, to protect me and others.)
4. After all the people have received the Blessed Sacrament your pastor will return to the sacristy.
 - a. The sacristy is closed to all visitors

PLEASE, COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE DISCONTIUNED. NO GROUPS IN THE CHURCH ARE PERMITTED TO MEET, I.E.:(Bunko, Ladies Auxiliary, Knights, Saint Vincent DePaul, Prayer Shawl, etc.) EVEN THOUGH WE ARE BACK AT CHURCH, WE ARE STILL AT A CRITICAL PLACE WITH THE VIRUS. PLEASE NO CONGREGATING IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE CALL ONE ANOTHER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TALK. PLEASE, PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED FROM ATTENDING CHURCH AND CONGREGATING. WE MUST BE CAREFUL!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Vernon F. Huguley