

St. Hugo Re-Opening for Public Masses

It is with excitement and joy that we announce St. Hugo's will be re-opening for public Masses this coming week. As we re-open, we want to cover some essential points in order to keep everyone who will be attending as safe as possible. We have a sacred responsibility to help guard the health and safety of our parishioners and staff. We request everyone's prayers and patience during this time of transition. Please realize that our call to care for one another with Christian love means that for a time, we will need to experience Masses differently than we are used to.

It's important to note that the Archbishop has continued to suspend the Sunday Mass obligation until at least September 6, and we will continue to live stream all Masses. If you fall into an at-risk category, please stay at home and join us by live stream. Also, if you are not feeling well, we ask that you stay at home and utilize the live stream option. We all need to ensure we are considerate of one another and do not put others at risk.

Here are some important points to remember as we re-open for Masses:

- Since seating will be limited to approximately 200 in the church (in order to ensure proper distancing and to follow the Archbishop's policy on the numbers which may attend Mass), ticket reservations will be required. Information on how to obtain a ticket will be available on our website. Tickets may be printed or brought on your mobile device but will be required for entrance.
- Those wishing to watch the live stream Mass from their vehicles in the church parking lot may do so, proceeding to the handicap ramp at the north entrance of the church to receive the Eucharist during Communion. (Those doing so will be asked to line up along the handicap ramp and stand 6' apart.)
- Before you arrive for Mass, we ask that you wash your hands for 20 seconds immediately before leaving home.
- All are required to wear face masks on our campus and during Mass.
- Gathering Space seating will not be available.
- If possible, please bring your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Holy Communion.
- Please do not bring items containing bleach as this can damage seat cushions and pews.
- When you arrive, please put on your mask prior to exiting your vehicle.
- Face masks must be worn properly, ensuring your nose and mouth are covered and that the mask is properly secured at the bridge of your nose.
- As you enter the church, please be sure to keep proper distance from other individuals and refrain from embracing or touching others.
- Please arrive 20-30 minutes before Mass begins to stand in line.
- Please print or have your reservation ticket available on your cell phone for entrance. This will speed up the process for all.

- The entrance doors to the church will open 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass and staff or ushers will seat your household similarly to boarding an airplane. The church will be filled to use the open pews from front to back. Unfortunately, you will not be able to choose where you sit and most likely will not be seated in your “usual spot.”
- Pews which cannot be used due to social distancing requirements will be closed with red tape; your household may be seated next to another household, but social distancing guidelines of 6’ separation will be followed.
- At this time, we will not be using kneelers or hymnals in order to create a safe environment and simplify the sanitizing process.
- The center sections of the church will be filled first followed by the side sections. Please follow the instructions of the ushers.
- Procedures during Mass:
 - Please keep your face mask on for the duration of the liturgy.
 - There should be no physical contact during the liturgy: no handshakes or embraces during the Sign of Peace and no joining of hands during the Our Father.
 - Baskets will not be passed during offertory. We will have baskets at the entrances, but strongly encourage the use of online giving.
- Procedures for the reception of Holy Communion:
 - We prefer communicants do not receive Holy Communion on the tongue, however we will have a separate Communion station for those who wish to receive on the tongue. Communion ministers will need to sanitize their hands between each person receiving on the tongue.
 - The precious Blood will not be offered to the congregation.
 - Use of personal hand sanitizer before Communion is strongly encouraged.
 - There will be a single Communion line in each main aisle.
 - When your pew is ushered to receive Communion, stand up and move to the center of the main aisle in your section. Please maintain social distance between you and the communicants in front of you.
 - When you step up to the priest or Communion minister to receive the Eucharist, **keep your mask on**. After the minister has offered you Communion in your hands, step to the side, remove your mask and receive the Precious Body of Christ. Then place your mask back on and proceed to your seat.
- Departure procedures:
 - After the final blessing, the congregation must remain in their pews. Pews will be dismissed in an orderly fashion from back to front starting in the rear of the church, similar to exiting an airplane.
 - We ask that you leave your pew when prompted. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow private prayer after Masses to enable the church to be reset and disinfected for the next Mass.

- All exits of the church will be utilized during departure. You can drop your weekly offertory in a basket as you depart.
 - Please do not congregate in the gathering space but head directly to your vehicle to maintain proper social distance and allow others to arrive for the next Mass.
- Cleaning of pews, handrails, and other areas will occur between Masses.
- Disinfecting bathrooms, door handles, and other frequently touched surfaces will occur throughout the day.
- Parish staff will be required to wear face masks, wash their hands frequently, and be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.
- You are reminded to follow CDC guidelines regarding your own health:
 - If you fall into an at-risk category, please stay at home and join us by live stream.
 - If you are not feeling well, stay at home and join us by live stream.
 - We must all be considerate of one another so as not put others at risk.
 - As the Archbishop states: “We must remember that this virus does not discriminate between gatherings; a group gathered for sacred worship is not immune by the merits of its gathering.”

We realize that many of these procedures seem strange and unfamiliar to us, but they are necessary at this time for the health and safety of our parish community. We look forward to the day when we can truly come together and celebrate Mass as we have been used to. We thank for your understanding and cooperation.