

Guidelines for Masses at St. Martha Church May 14, 2020

1. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is dispensed through the end of June 2020.
2. Whenever there is a public gathering nowadays, there is a risk for anyone to contract coronavirus, so use prudence and, if concerned or fearful, please follow Holy Mass on TV or on the web.
3. The public celebration of the Holy Mass will resume Monday, May 18, 2020 and moving forward.
4. A facemask should be worn by all parishioners during Mass and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion.
5. Observe the social distancing of 6 feet between people (not living in the same household), and the total capacity rule of 25% of occupancy of the Church and Hall: (34) total seating stations in the Church and (72) total seating stations in the Parish Hall.
6. All missals, songbooks, missalettes, bulletins, and prayer cards must be removed from the pews. No Holy Water at the doors.
7. No physical contact at the "Our Father" or at the optional 'Sign of Peace' (a simple bow with eye contact is sufficient).
8. All persons, as defined by the Health Department, as more vulnerable, such as 65+ years of age, those with underlying health conditions, fever or flu-like symptoms **are encouraged to stay at home, however attendance is at their discretion**. A weekend Mass will be available every Sunday on our website (stmartha.org) and You Tube channel (St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL).
9. Priests and Deacons will not greet you, dear parishioners, entering or leaving the Church, eliminating the temptations of touching or hugging.
10. Holy Communion will be dropped in the cup of your hand only. All communicants, after receiving Jesus, must step aside, temporarily move the mask and receive Jesus, and immediately returning to their seat.
11. If the Hall is fully occupied or you are unable to attend Holy Mass, Communion will be distributed by the Deacons at the window of the Confessional in the courtyard for 30 minutes on Saturdays, 4-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-6 p.m.; and on Sundays, continuously from 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
12. Daily Masses are Monday - Friday (7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12 noon, and 5:30 p.m.) and Saturday (7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.) will be celebrated in the Church. The Saturday vigil and Sunday Masses will be celebrated **ONLY** in the Parish Hall, because of its greater capacity. Saturday vigil Masses 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday Masses are 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m. (in Vietnamese), and 5:30 p.m.
13. Individual Confessions will take place at the window of the Confessional in the courtyard Sunday thru Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.; and Saturday 9 – 10 a.m. and 3 – 4 p.m.
14. Only baskets with long handles will be used for collections, but the Mass will continue because there is no procession with gifts. Large baskets may be put at Church exit for people to drop envelopes or donations.
15. Marriages, Baptisms, and Funerals may resume following the general rules of 25% capacity and the 6 feet social distancing between people not living in the same household.
16. Communal Celebration of the Anointing of the Sick after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Saturdays is suspended. The Adoration Chapel continues to be closed. All organized Parish activities are suspended except for the Sacred Liturgy.
17. All Deacons and Priests above the age of 70 will not preside at Masses or minister to you unless they receive special dispensation from the Bishop, the reason is to safeguard your good health from vulnerable elderlies.