

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL CLEAR LAKE AS OF 29 MAY 2021 (WEEKEND OF TRINITY SUNDAY)

Following the recent decisions of the Indiana Bishops' Conference and the new guidelines of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, we want to celebrate our progress, keep people safe from the lingering pandemic, and make our liturgies as inviting as possible to as many people as possible.

Many parishes are choosing a hybrid model where part of the church is reserved for those who still need to wear masks and maintain physical distancing. This is not realistic at our chapel because the building is so long and narrow.

Although we want to be accommodating, it is physically difficult for us to offer any other solution. If for whatever reason you still need to exercise special caution, please be aware that this will be difficult at our chapel for the next few weeks. Furthermore, our solution depends on people being vaccinated. We thank those who have given this service of love to the community by getting vaccinated. For those who have not, please be aware that this will cause difficulties.

These protocols will be used for about three weeks, although some things we will need to evaluate every week to see how it's going. By about June 20 (Father's Day) there will be a new set of protocols.

CHURCH BUILDING

- **Pews, masks and seating:** Because of the architecture of our chapel and community room, we will apply the same solution to the entire interior.
 - In the entire nave of the Chapel, the ropes have been removed from the pews. All pews are available for seating.
 - The entire community room is also available for seating. If on some Sundays the tables are set up for refreshments after Mass, people may also sit at the tables during Mass.
 - Masks are optional throughout the nave and community room.
 - This arrangement will be evaluated every week.
- **Holy Water:**
 - There will be slightly chlorinated holy water in the two stoups by the entrances. We will continue to wash the stoups and switch out the water every week all summer.
 - The baptism font will be filled later when we can.

MASS

- **Altar:** The altar returns to the pre-Covid setup.
- **Credence Table:** We return to the pre-Covid setup, except we will not yet offer the chalice to the congregation. For a weekend Mass, there are usually 1 cruet of water, 3 ciboria, 1 chalice, 1 corporal, 1 purificator plus the bowl and towel for the lavabo.
- **Ushers:** You do not need to wear masks (but of course you may if you wish). You will continue to keep an attendance count. Since we no longer need a precise count, you can use the counter or do a nose count during the Gloria – either method is fine.
- **Altar Servers:** There will be one or two altar servers throughout the summer. They do not need to wear masks. The servers will still not hold the book for the priest. They will, however, assist with the lavabo.
- **Music:**
 - There are no longer any restrictions on wind instruments.
 - There are no longer any restrictions on choir size.
 - We are now using the new, hardbound hymnbook.
 - The congregation is invited to sing both the hymns and the Mass parts.
- **Lectors:**
 - There will still be only one lector per Mass. No mask required.
 - We will not carry the Gospel Book in the opening procession.
 - For the next three or four weeks, the lector will continue to read:
 - the announcements before Mass
 - the First and Second Readings (the choir is responsible for the responsorial psalm.)
 - the intercessions, followed by the offertory announcement
 - an explanation of communion
 - the closing announcements
 - In June, we will re-evaluate this whole process. Some of the announcements (commentaries) may be eliminated. But for now, it is important that we explain things to the returning summer parishioners.
- **Opening Procession:** Only the celebrant(s) and altar server(s) process in.
- **Offertory Procession:** The bread and wine are on the offertory table. There should be at least two people in the procession. Masks are optional. We will try to continue the “little red wagon procession” all summer as well.
- **Collection:** The ushers will not take up a collection and we will not pass a basket from hand to hand. Large baskets are set up near the doors and people are encouraged to put

their gifts there. We will re-evaluate this system in July. In the meantime, this makes the little red wagon procession even more important.

- **Our Father & Sign of Peace:** People may now shake hands at the sign of peace, as they wish. Holding hands during the Our Father is not a Catholic custom but is not forbidden.
- **Communion:**
 - The next few weeks, we will use three or four communion lines: two in the center aisle, and one or two in the community room.
 - The priest may elect to distribute communion himself or may ask for an extraordinary minister.
 - We still offer communion only in the form of the host. Each distributor may decide whether or not to give communion on the tongue.
 - Communion ministers should continue to wear masks at least until the end of June. Please note: this is the only required use of masks now at Mass.
 - The communion ministers should also continue to sanitize their hands before distributing.
 - The ushers will help guide the congregation forward for communion.
 - We are no longer enforcing physical distancing during communion.
- **After Mass:**
 - Social events may now be held in the community room.
 - We will continue to fumigate the church every Monday through the end of June.

MEETING GUIDELINES

The guidelines for meetings will be revised and published in the coming weeks.