

Updated Parish Guidelines During This Pandemic

1) **Public Masses:** All Masses have resumed with the following guidelines:

-Bishop Taylor has **suspended the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass effective Oct. 1, 2020.** However, those who are ill, elderly, at a greater risk for contracting COVID-19, or are caring for an ill person, are still dispensed from their Sunday obligation. Those who are fearful of contracting the virus are also still dispensed. The diocese reminds those who remain at home that they are still obligated to observe the Lord's Day, which can be done in a variety of ways, including attending an online Mass or observing an hour of prayer at home.

-Persons ages 65 and older, or with serious health conditions, **are encouraged to remain at home.**

-Anyone who is ill, has a fever or cough, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 **must remain at home.**

-**All persons entering the building (ages 10 and older) must wear a face mask.** Per Bishop Taylor, face masks must remain in place while in the building and throughout Mass; the only exception is when raising/lowering them to receive Holy Communion. *(Please note, clear face shields have not been approved by the CDC to be used as a face mask; therefore, Bishop Taylor mandates that a face mask be worn with them.)*

-All persons are asked to **enter through the main front doors;** please **use the hand sanitizer in the vestibule as you enter the building.** (The side 2 entrances to church will remain locked during the time hand sanitizer is required.)

-There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass. **Holy Communion will be distributed in the hand** during Mass. **Communion on the Tongue** will be offered to those desiring so *after* Mass. If you are not receiving Holy Communion, please remain in your pew, as blessings are not being given at this time.

-Except for family units, there will be **no contact** with each other while at Mass, no Sign of Peace, and no holding hands during the Our Father. **Safe distancing is to be observed** at all times; please save socializing for outside in the open air.

2) **Donations:** We are grateful to those who have continued to donate toward the parish collections. If you are financially able, please consider contributing if you haven't already, as the church still has bills to pay. If you are able to come to Mass, you will see that there will be no passing of the collection basket, for the time being; instead, a collection basket will be placed in the vestibule. If you are unable to come to Mass, **donations may be mailed to: PO Box 970, Cherokee Vlg, AR 72525, or processed through your bank's Bill Pay.**

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- 3) **Missalettes and Hymnals:** We were instructed to remove all printed material so that we are not touching things in common. Copies of the current Missalette are available in the vestibule for you to use at Mass and keep, or you may bring your own Missal from home. Be sure to take all printed material, you have used at Mass, home with you. Music will be provided by the cantor only.
- 4) **Bulletins:** We have been instructed not to pass out bulletins at the end of Mass. They will be available in the vestibule on the table by the lamps, you may take one as you leave. They are also available on our website, stmichaelscv.org, or can be e-mailed/mailed to you *upon request*.
- 5) **Communion to the Homebound and Sick / Anointing of the Sick:** Visits to the Homebound, Sick, or Nursing Homes with Holy Communion are still not permitted; if there is an imminent danger of death, please call Fr. Amal, (870) 257-4456.
- 6) **Holy Communion in the parking lot:** For those who are still fearful of coming to Mass, Fr. Amal will give you Holy Communion in the parking lot without the need of you leaving your car. Please call the Church Office to arrange a day and time.
- 7) **Confession:** Confessions will be heard *in the Library* on Saturdays before the Vigil Mass, on First Friday and First Saturday after the 9am Mass, or by appointment (call the Church Office). We ask that those waiting for Confession keep a 6' distance from one another.
- 8) **Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration will continue as scheduled on the main altar. The front doors are unlocked Monday - Friday from 10am-12Noon; everyone is welcome to stop in to pray. If someone would like to stop and pray *after* 12Noon, please ring the doorbell by the main doors (on the door frame). If possible, come "on-the-hour" so the disturbance of those praying is minimized.
- 9) **Church Office:** The Church Office is open for business Monday - Friday from 10am-12Noon. It is preferred that you call before coming in, as many issues can be dealt with over the phone. Also, if you need an appointment with Father, please call the Office. (If we are on another call or it is after hours, leave a message on the answering machine and we will return your call as soon as possible.) Please do not disturb the person praying in the church by ringing the doorbell for the sole purpose of access to the building. If you need to come to the Church Office after 12Noon, or any other reason that coming to pray after 12Noon, please make pre-arrangements with us. Thank you for your understanding.
- 10) **Meetings and Events:** All non-essential meetings and gatherings remain suspended until further notice, this includes Sunday Coffee and Donuts. For information on the Religious Education schedule, please call DRE, Lori Templet, (870) 856-2261.
- 11) **Funerals:** Funeral Masses will be scheduled as needed; the maintaining of a safe distance and the wearing of face masks will still apply. No Funeral Luncheons may be held at this time.
- 12) **Parish Hall & Restrooms:** No food should be served or cooked in the parish hall. Only the upstairs restrooms should be used. Please refrain from going down to the Parish Hall unless your group has permission from Father to meet there.