

# Return to Public Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church Aspen, Colorado

Updated November 16, 2020

With grateful hearts, we have returned to celebrating Mass together in person! But Mass may look a little different than usual. Please read through the details of attending Mass below and contact us with any questions you may have.

## Mass Times

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Saturday Vigil @ 5:30 PM

Sunday Mass @ 7:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Mon–Thu @ 8:00 AM

Friday @ 5:30 PM

## Do's and Don'ts for Attending Mass

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- Come early, as it may take a little longer to get everyone seated.
- Wear a mask or face covering.
- Always maintain 6' social distancing between household parties.
- Half the pews are roped off for social distancing. Please only sit in an open pew.
- Listen to the direction of the ushers, greeters, staff members, Fr. Darrick, and other ministers. We will ensure that you are aware of anything and everything you need to know to celebrate fully in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!
- Expect Mass to look a little different but coming to the House of the Lord is always joyful! May we rejoice in gathering again and receiving the Lord's many blessings!
- Do not worry – if you make a mistake it is okay, we are all learning together!
- Do not hesitate to contact us at 970-925-7339 or [info@stmaryaspen.org](mailto:info@stmaryaspen.org) with any questions or concerns you may have.

# Frequently Asked Questions about Mass

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## **Do I need to RSVP/Sign up to attend Mass?**

No. Practicing social distancing, 46 pews will be open in the church. If you are a single, please sit in a smaller pew along the far side aisles, allowing the larger pews to be available for families. Social distance regulations limit us to a maximum of 50 people in the main Church space for Mass. Overflow seating for 40 people is available in the parish hall to view Mass via live-stream on television and receive Communion.

## **I am not comfortable coming to church yet, but I worry that I am sinning by not putting God first. What should I do?**

Please stay home. The faithful have been dispensed from their Sunday and Holy Day obligation to participate in the Mass until further notice. Keeping the Sabbath holy should include an intentional time in prayer including engagement in the readings for the day, which may be enhanced through watching a pre-recorded or live stream Mass and making spiritual communion. The 10:00 AM Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube, as well as Daily Mass Mon-Thu at 8:00 AM and Friday at 5:30 PM.

## **Can I attend a weekday Mass instead of Sunday Mass?**

For those who are not yet comfortable coming to Sunday Mass, attending a weekday Mass is a way to receive Holy Communion weekly, as daily Masses are smaller in number. A daily Mass does not take the place of Sunday Mass, but we are dispensed from our Sunday worship at this time due to the pandemic.

## **Will live-streaming continue?**

Yes, we will continue live-streaming of Sunday Mass at 10:00 AM, and daily Mass Monday-Thursday at 8:00 AM and Friday at 5:30 PM. [Click here for the live-stream.](#)

## **What are the prayer opportunities during the week?**

The Church is open daily from 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM for private prayer. Adoration is Mon-Thu from 7:00–8:00 AM and Friday from 4:30–5:30 PM.

**If I come to Mass, do I have to wear a mask?**

**Yes.** Pitkin county health regulations require this. We sincerely ask all parishioners to wear a mask or face covering while at Mass. A scarf, bandana or neck gaiter is an acceptable face covering.

**When is Confession Available?**

- Mon–Thu from 7:00–7:50 AM.
- Fri & Sat from 4:30–5:20 PM.
- 30 min before each Sunday Mass.

**What are some of the steps being taken to help keep everyone safe?**

- Limited capacity (only 46 pews are available in the main body of the Church).
- Priests, deacons, parish staff, and ministers will wear face coverings when close to parishioners.
- Surfaces such as pews and doorknobs will be sanitized after each Mass according to CDC regulations, with a deep cleaning at least once a week.
- Every other pew will be closed off. Every family will sit in their own pew. If you are a single, please sit in the side pews to make the larger pews available for larger parties.
- There will not be bringing up of the gifts, physical expression of the Sign of Peace, or receiving Precious Blood.
- Those distributing Holy Communion will sanitize their hands and wear a mask while distributing.
- We encourage you to bring your own hand sanitizer. If you use hand sanitizer prior to Holy Communion, please do so early enough so that your hands are dry when receiving the host.
- Please remain in your pew during Communion. To keep our distance and avoid pinch points, ministers will walk down the aisles and bring the Eucharist to each congregant.
- Please receive Holy Communion in the hand and not on the tongue. It is common that physical contact can take place between the tongue/mouth of the person receiving and the finger of the person distributing Communion.
- At the conclusion of Mass, please leave in an organized manner, respecting social distancing.