

# COVID-19 Safe Practices for Mass at St. Augustine Church

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## Phase 1 Mass Schedule

- Two masses will be held each weekend:
  - Saturdays at 5:00 pm
  - Sundays at 9:00 am (This Mass will also be lived streamed on Facebook.)
- Dispensation from Sunday obligation remains for all.
- Mass will be conducted in a different manner than normal and lasting approximately 40 minutes.
- Church doors will remain locked before Mass until the Tribal Sheriffs and ushers have arrived. The doors will then be opened and will remain open during the Mass.
- **At this time the Masses will only be open to Isleta Tribal Members, as the Pueblo remains closed to non-residents.**

## General Rules for Safety:

- Attendance will be limited to no more than 45 people. This includes the priest, one lecturer, and one Eucharist Minister.
- Attendance will be at a first-come, first-served basis.
- Persons over the age of 60 are strongly encouraged to stay home especially if they have health issues that compromise their immunity.
- If you are getting sick and have experienced an elevated temperature and any signs of this virus, please stay home.
- Families will be allowed to attend AND members of the same household must sit together.
  - It is recommended that children under 3 years not attend Mass.
  - Older children attending Mass must remain with an adult and not permitted to roam.
- Wearing a mask is required of everyone (including children) to enter the church and must be kept worn the entire duration of the mass.
- Social distancing is always mandatory – 6 ft. apart from others.
  - This requires only one person sitting in one pew. (Except families; see below.)
- Ushers will control an orderly entrance and exit of people attending the mass. They will direct individuals and families to designated seating places. They are there to ensure your safety while attending the mass. Please cooperate with their instructions.
- Standing in the back of the church or using folding chairs will not be allowed.
- The Sacristy will be closed to the public.
  - Only the priest and lay ministers will be allowed in.
  - No one is permitted to enter the church thru the Sacristy.
- Restrooms:
  - The Sacristy restroom is closed to everyone except the priest.
  - Restrooms in the Religious Education Building will remain open for each Mass.
- Selling food or other goods after masses will not be permitted.

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- Tribal Sheriffs will be at each mass and will help enforce all these rules.
- The Archdiocese remains responsive to changes in conditions/requirements and may revise these rules periodically as necessary.

## The Mass:

- Holy water will not be present in the bowl or the baptism font.
- There will be no Choir.
- Church bulletins will not be printed or available at this time.
- It is recommended that there be no contact among individuals during Mass. However, it is okay for same household family members sitting together to do so.
- Place offerings and donations in the black box at the back of the church. The normal collection during the mass will not be done.
- Mass stipends for masses you requested are also encouraged to be dropped in the black box. Place them in a separate sealed envelope and label it "Mass Stipend from *your name*."
- Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of the mass.
  - After the final blessing, the priest and one communion minister will move to the back of the church
  - Ushers will control one a pew at a time to leave starting from the last pew. Others are to remain standing until an usher directs your turn.
  - Please maintain 6 ft. apart while waiting to receive Holy Communion.
  - Attendees will receive Holy Communion only in the hand – no exceptions.
    - Once communion is received, proceed to the exit of the church and once you are outside remove your mask and consume the consecrated host.
  - The cup will not be offered.

## Need to Talk with Father?

- Many of us are used to speaking with Father after mass. Father will not be readily available before or after mass.
  - If you need to speak with Father, please call the parish office in advance and schedule an appointment.
  - Please do not enter the Sacristy to speak with Father. If you have an appointment to meet with Father, most likely you will meet him in the parish office.

## Sacramental Rites

- **Baptisms**
  - Baptisms will be celebrated after mass on scheduled Sundays.
  - A maximum of three baptisms will be scheduled per Sunday.
  - Baptisms are limited to the child, parents and godparents.

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- **Funerals**

- Funeral services will continue to be held as scheduled.
- It is encouraged that only immediate family members attend the church service.
- People remaining outside the church during the service are to remain masked and maintain social distancing from each other.
- People attending the burial rite at the cemetery must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

- **Weddings**

- Wedding ceremonies currently remain postponed.
- Please be patient. Discussions are in effect regarding when and how to resume these sacraments.

- **Receptions:** The Religious Education Building will remain closed for all receptions until further notice.

## **Visitors & Church Tours**

- The church remains closed for personal visits and tours.