



# ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Guidelines to reopen our Church for Mass

It is very important to note that the Cardinal has directed all the faithful that the Sunday obligation to attend Mass on Sundays continues to be suspended. In other words, **no one is required to attend** church during this time of pandemic. **If you have any symptoms, are feeling sick at all, sneezing or coughing; or have recently traveled out of state – stay home.**

From the Cardinal to the faithful – “I gently remind you that **the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended**. It is still recommended that people, especially those who are 65 and older or are vulnerable, should remain at home and participate by livestream. Even more urgently, if you have any reason to believe you might be sick or exposed to COVID-19, please remain at home as an act of charity to others! I have asked our parishes to maintain the livestreaming that they have adopted during the past several weeks. Furthermore, since it still will not be possible for all people to come to Mass on Sundays, I ask that the faithful be flexible in considering attendance on a different day of the week. We are still limited in our ability to fully congregate, but the most important consideration is the faithful have access to Eucharist and Confession.”

Beginning Saturday, May 2, the Mass will resume:

- Saturday 5 p.m.
- Sunday 8 a.m.
- Sunday 10 a.m.
- Sunday 12 p.m.

The following will also resume:

- Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m. – Daily Mass in the CHURCH
- Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m. – Reconciliation in the CHURCH

Mass will continue to be recorded and posted online.

- Subscribe to - St. Maximilian Kolbe YouTube Channel
- Parish website: [www.stmaximilian.org](http://www.stmaximilian.org)

\*ADORATION will **not** resume yet – but the Immaculata Chapel will be open daily for personal/private prayer; IF there are 10 or more people present – do not enter, until 1 person leaves. We must maintain the safe distance!

### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

- This is the first phase or reopening. All criteria must be met to move to the next phase. Restrictions on our gatherings may be re-established if those criteria are not met. We will keep you posted as we receive updates.
- We emphasize here that this information is tentative. Unless we are able to have safe procedures in place, our ability to resume the public celebration of Masses and the sacrament could be hindered. This is why it is so important we have full cooperation of everyone.
- We ask all to consider attending Mass during the week – realizing there is a MAXIMUM of 150 persons able to enter the Church for each Mass. Spreading out the attendance will help with meeting this mandatory guideline.

**The following are St. Maximilian’s specific guidelines to be observed by ALL who choose to attend Mass.**

- **25 percent occupancy is mandatory!** We will only be allowing a maximum of 150 people to enter for each Mass time. Once this number is reached the doors will be closed. We understand this is difficult on those who will be asked to come back or be turned away, but as for now this is our only alternative.
- Enter and exit through main/front doors only.
- All other doors will be marked for EXIT ONLY.
- Personal masks are MANDATORY to attend Mass as per the minimum guidelines outlined below.
- Maintain six feet between each other.

**Minimum guidelines to be observed by parishioners:**

- **Personal masks are mandatory** and please bring your hand sanitizer; we will also provide some at the entrance.
- A distance of six feet must be maintained between all individuals at all times.
- **A same household family or a same household couple may sit together in one pew.**
- Every other pew is to be left empty, occupy ONLY open pews clearly identified with labels ensuring six feet distance.
- All items such as hymnals, missals, prayer cards, should NOT be used.
- Please follow the Mass on the projection screens.
- Ushers will be asked to ensure our parishioners’ are in compliance with the six-foot rule of distance. Please follow their direction when given.



# ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Guidelines to reopen our Church for Mass

### Minimum guidelines [continued]:

- Collection baskets will be placed in a prominent place within the body of the church. Baskets will not be passed between the faithful for the collection at this time. If you are able to make a donation at this time, please deposit offerings into the basket during offertory when directed. ***For your convenience you may also use the online giving option, Faith Direct.***
- Along with proper seating, please observe an orderly dismissal. Always remembering the six-foot social distance rule. There will be no allowance of socializing before or after the Mass.
- Ushers will not distribute bulletins – you may pick one up as you exit the Church building after Mass.

### The church will be sanitized between Masses:

- Teams of staff/clergy and volunteers will be in place to sanitize the pew seats and rails; also doors and handles.
- Medical staff will provide oversight and direction and be crucial in advising of proper sanitization protocols.

### Communion:

- Ushers will direct flow of communion.
- Again, please be attentive to the six-foot spacing.
- Out of continuing concern for the health of others, the faithful are asked to receive communion on the hand.
- The priest will give the Body of Christ [host] in the hands and the faithful should then step to the side, lift their mask and consume the Eucharist. Only after consuming, replace the mask to the proper position and return to their seat, always maintaining the six-foot distance from others.

We would like to thank you for your support in implementing these guidelines. We continue to pray for all of our parish family and for all of those affected by COVID-19.