

Dear Parishioners,

On Sunday, May 10, I received guidelines from the Diocese for the restarting of public worship. These guidelines must be adapted for each individual Parish, so that they best fit the specifics of each situation. The following information is important for you to know as we return to public Mass at St. Teresa of Avila Parish:

1. Until further notice, all Catholics in the Diocese of Cleveland remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. The restart of public Masses means you have the option to attend Mass, but it is not a requirement.
2. Before coming to Mass please take your temperature. If your temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher please stay home. If you feel sick, please stay home.
3. All parishioners are encouraged to wear a mask or other face covering when attending Mass.
4. All parishioners should be mindful of social distancing when sitting in pews and in the communion line. Families may sit together, but must maintain social distancing between their family and others throughout the celebration of Mass.
5. The precious blood cannot be offered to the faithful until directed by the Diocese.
6. There will be no offertory procession. A basket will be placed by the doors of the Church. Please drop your offertory envelopes in these baskets.
7. There will be no handshake of peace until further notice.
8. Daily Mass will resume on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.
9. Eucharistic Adoration will go back to its normal day and time (Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM).
10. Beginning Tuesday, May 26, the Parish Office will be open for business from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Parish Office will, however, remain closed to the public.

One final note, if you choose to attend Mass on Pentecost weekend (May 30 & 31), please wear some red clothing as a sign we are celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, and the “birthday” of the Catholic Church.

Father Ken, Father Thomas and I are looking forward to seeing you at Church once again, if you choose to attend. Remember, if you are concerned about your health or scared to leave your home, attending Mass is not obligatory. However, if you are able, please do not forget to send in your offertory envelopes. This pandemic has been financially difficult on everyone, including the Parish.

May God bless you all. Come Holy Spirit, come.

In Christ,

The Reverend Edward J. Smith

Pastor