



ST. MARY'S R.C. PARISH

2026 Winnipeg Street Regina SK. Canada S4P 1G6

Telephone: (306) 522-3361 Fax: (306) 522-9780

E-mail: maryst@sasktel.net

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's Parish

June 18, 2020

A. Introduction: Welcome everyone, thanks be to God, our Churches can be re-opened offering of Holy Mass & Holy Eucharist on Sunday & weekdays starting Saturday May 30th/Sunday May 31st feast of Pentecost. **Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in place as granted by Archbishop Donald Bolen in his letter dated March 18, 2020.**

Background: Please note that based on current public health information and directives communicated by the Archdiocese, We are now allowed to gather up to a third of the normal capacity of churches, subject to the 2 metre distancing rule (60 persons).. Other protocols are detailed in item C. below.

1. To accommodate as many as possible, Fr. Thomas will offer 1 anticipated Masse on Saturday, plus 2 Masses on Sunday. A morning Mass will be offered daily Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, an evening Mass is offered on Wednesday preceded by Adoration & Holy Rosary.
2. Attendance restrictions require that persons wishing to attend Mass on Sunday must first register with the Parish Office indicating Sunday mass they wish to attend. Parish will endeavor to accommodate registered persons as best as can be. Schedules will be maintained identifying persons registered to attend each Mass offered on Sunday. Only registered persons will be granted access to Church. A designated usher will be assigned to monitor access & other protocols.

B. Other Protocols:

1. Personal Protocols: (communicated in conjunction with confirmation of attendance)

a. Persons must stay home for sake of wider community where they:

- ✓ have contracted covid-19, live or lived with someone with covid-19, have been exposed to someone with covid-19, recently traveled outside of Canada (last 2 weeks).
- ✓ are sick, including even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness, especially with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms such as: fever, cough, headache, aches & pains, sore throat, chills, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, or shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.

b. Persons are encouraged to stay home for sake of wider community where they:

- ✓ live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms, are elderly with underlying or compromised medical conditions, live with elderly people or those who are at risk.

2. Church Facility Protocols:

- a. **Access to the Church will be restricted to parking lot entrance door**, north side of Church.
 - i. Door will be opened 45 minutes before Mass and remain open until Mass begins.

- ii. Parking lot entrance will be closed and locked, preventing external access during Mass but will not prevent persons from inside to exit the Church should an emergency occur.
- iii. Parking lot entrance door will be opened at conclusion of Mass for persons to exit the Church.
- iv. In case of emergency, persons can also exit through front entrance doors, south end of Church.
- v. A designated usher will be assigned responsibility for opening, locking, closing Church doors.

b. On Sundays upon entering the Church persons will be:

- i. checked off against scheduled attendance sheet to confirm attendance records.(Weekday masses persons should sign in their names). The records will be stored in the Sacristy after Mass and collected by the Parish Officer will on following Monday.
- ii. Directed to sanitize their hands using hand sanitization dispenser located on right-side wall in entrance way; and to sanitize their hands using same sanitizing dispenser when leaving Church.
- iii. directed to sit in open pews located within the first 19 rows at the front of the Church respecting 2-meter distancing of persons within a Church pew.

Note Exemption: family members from same household may sit together.

iv. reminded that there is no formal collection made during Mass, however, **collection baskets have been placed near the ambo for persons to drop off donations and Mass intentions before sitting down in designated pews. *Financial support of the Parish is critical especially at this difficult time.***

v. washroom facilities are available for emergency use only

vi. upon leaving the Church persons are asked to sanitize their hands using same dispenser as when entering the Church. The door will be opened so persons can simply walk out.

vii. Note: A designated usher will be assigned to monitor protocols during Mass. Accordingly the usher will remain in the south entrance of the Church behind the glass windows and doors, separated from the main body of the Church to observe proceedings during Mass but not participate in the Mass or reception of Communion (not counted in the 30 persons). This is similar to security officers assigned to Safeway stores where they are located in the entrance area of the store to monitor access privileges.

viii. The usher is available for guidance should an emergency occur during the Mass and is responsible to sanitize the pews and materials used after Mass.

3. Mass Protocols:

- a. Father will assume sacristan duties (preparing all items relative to celebration of Mass) thus enabling an extra person to attend Mass. There is no choir and no formal collection at the offertory.
- b. 1-persons attending Mass will be selected to do readings, responsorial psalm, and prayers of the faithful. 2- Copies of readings/prayers will be given to Lectors. 3- Lectors will read from their designated pew.

- c. Copies of the readings, responsorial psalm, prayers of the faithful will be kept in separate plastic sleeves which can be sanitized and disinfected for re-use at the next Mass. Lector asked to leave the binder in the pew occupied after Mass.

Note: Weekday Lectors will read from their missalette at their pews.

- d. The sign of peace is restricted to verbal communication and or non-contact gesture of peace.
- e. Persons are asked not to linger in the Church after Mass to allow for cleaning by a designated usher; they may socialize in the parking lot maintaining social distancing rules.

4. Eucharist Protocols

- a. To prevent potential transfer of virus to communion hosts, before Mass Father will use gloves to place the communion hosts in separate receptacles on a tray. The tray will be placed at the right edge of the Altar for consecration.
- b. At communion time, Father will pick up the tray and place it on a table at foot of steps leading to the Sanctuary. He will go back up the steps to front of Altar.
- c. Father will call persons row by row to stand for reception of communion.
- d. One person at time will stand and wait on the red x marked on the floor in center of main aisle for Father to address them with the words "Body of Christ". Each person when standing on the red x will answer Amen.
- e. They will go up to the table and pick up a receptacle and take the Sacred Host from their fingers or from their lips and consume the Sacred Host. Then they will proceed to the right or to left (as the case may be) and deposit the empty receptacle on the available tray, and return to their pew and pray thanksgiving prayer.
- f. A designated usher will be responsible to collect the receptacles after Mass and sanitize them for use at the next Mass.

This concludes our presentation of protocols. Your cooperation in these matters is much appreciated. Thank you and God bless all of you and your families.

Rev. Thomas Mutavanttu,
St. Mary's Parish R.C.
2026 Winnipeg Street
Regina, Sk S4P1G6