Saint Augustin Parish

New Mass Protocol and Best Practices

These new procedures are in place to keep our parishioners healthy and with a strong feeling of "safety" coming back into our church again. The two keys are mask usage and social distancing.

1. Masks are required at all masses unless a medical condition prevents such usage. This is to best protect our congregation
2. All parishioners are encouraged to enter the church through the doors on the south-east door of the church. Entry (and exit) through the Parish Hall and chapel will be discouraged unless medically necessary.
3. Parishioners will be greeted at the door and directed to an usher waiting in the center aisle. That usher should have a collection basket ready for any tithing and will offer hand sanitizer and a mask (if needed).
4. The usher should then accompany parishioners up the main aisle to a "safely distanced" pew. By walking them to a pre-determined pew, the ushers can make sure that proper social distancing is in place. If a crowd is expected (not too likely for awhile) you could be asked to move toward the side aisles to allow additional parishioners to also enter the pew if necessary.
5. Pay attention to not sit anyone directly in front of, or behind, the person two pews away. Think of a chessboard. Staggering the seating in this way should maximize social distancing of at least six feet.
6. At communion time, the usher will walk to the front of the church to let each pew out, one at a time. Once the last person in that pew has received the sacrament, the pew on the other side of the aisle can be released. Ushers will also point to the stickers on the floor to remind parishioners of distancing in the aisle.
7. **At the end of Mass, the pews will be released from back to front by way of the two side aisles** to allow as little contact with other parishioners as they leave the church.
8. These small changes are designed to increase everyone's comfort/ and safety as they return to masses and to also keep our parishioners healthy.