

## **Our First Steps to Open our Churches**

By Fr. Jaime Hinojos

Dear Parishioners, please notice that the schedule of Mass for the upcoming weekend is slightly different for Pentecost.

**Saturday, May 23 at 4:00 P.M.** Mass of the Ascension of the Lord will be at **Saint Christopher**

**Sunday, May 24 at 9:30 A.M.** Mass of the Ascension of the Lord in Spanish at **St. Thomas Aquinas**

and at Noon in English

As we prepare to resume public Mass with no more than 25% of our church capacity, here are some guidelines that we need to observe for the protection of all.

First, we need to attend to our RCIA candidates and catechumens who are being prepared to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation. They, their families, and sponsors will be allowed access first.

If you wish to attend Mass in person, please call the parish office on Wednesday or Friday at (313) 271-3266 Ext #3, or send a text message at (313) 559-6228. You may also send an email at [parishsecretary@familiamdei.com](mailto:parishsecretary@familiamdei.com)

### **Guidelines and Protocol:**

#### **What to expect:**

The church will be thoroughly cleaned before and after each Mass. Also, the church doors will be opened so that you don't have to use your hands to open and close them.

There will be neither missals nor hymnals. You may bring your missal, but we ask you to take it home with you at the end of Mass. The church will be cleaned and sanitized after each Mass, and all items left will be discarded.

Please, please check your temperature and the temperature of all your family members before coming to church. If one of you has a fever or any flu, please stay home.

Please arrive at least 20 minutes before Mass starts, since it will take extra time to implement the safety protocol in place. There will be a line with marked spots to enter the church.

Face-coverings/masks are mandatory in and around the church for all, except children under two years old.

There will be hand sanitizer for all, to be used before and after Mass.

You will be directed to a seat in reserved and marked pews. Please follow the directions of the usher who will lead you. You will see some yellow tape blocking the entrance to some pews. Please do not remove the yellow tape; it is to ensure a social distancing of 6 feet.

Please do not hold hands during the Our Father.

Please do not shake hands during the greeting of peace; instead, you may bow your head to others as a sign of peace.

To receive the Body of Christ, you will be directed to form a single line. Please stand and wait on the sign that you will see on the floor. Do not advance until the person in front of you moves from one position to the next.

At this time, we ask you to please receive the Body of Christ in your hands. The Lord said: "For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink" (John 6:55). Every day, we take our food and drink with and in our hands.

After the final blessing, please wait for a moment and follow the usher's directions to have a more coordinated and orderly exiting. At this time, the usher will ask the people at the back pews to exit first.

Upon leaving the church, please do not stop to socialize, but rather walk immediately to your vehicle and proceed to your next destination.

There will be a couple of baskets for you to deposit your donations at the end of Mass. You may also continue to drop your envelopes at the parish office, or continue using online contributions.

#### **Our Mass schedule is**

Saturday at 4:00 P.M. Mass at St. Christopher in English.

From Pentecost on, and until the pandemic is over, we will celebrate our 9:30 A.M. Sunday Spanish Mass at **St. Christopher**.

Our Noon Mass in English will be at St. Thomas Aquinas.

More information and updates will be communicated in the days and weeks to follow. God is blessing us.