



June 4, 2020

Dear Friends,

The time has officially come to welcome you back home! The Archdiocese of Chicago has given us the go-ahead to begin slowly celebrating Masses once again in our spiritual home of St. Theresa! This is fabulous news and worth celebrating! Allow me to explain how this will work... at least for now.

We will begin this process on a limited basis to make sure that we have enough volunteers in place to set-up, clean and greet our parishioners who will be attending Mass.

Weekend and Daily Masses

Beginning this weekend, we will open up the church for Mass for no more than 50 people on Saturday, June 6th at 6:30 pm and Sunday, June 7th at 7:30 am and 10:00 am. Live-streaming of the 10:00 am Mass will continue for those uncomfortable returning to Mass in the church. Please note that the obligation to attend weekly Mass remains suspended at this time. The next weekend, June 13th and 14th, we will offer the same schedule. Depending on how those weekends go, we hope then to offer four Masses on June 20-21 by adding a 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday and increasing the seating capacity at each Mass. This will then be our Mass schedule until we move into the next phase of the re-entry plan at a date to be determined by the Archdiocese of Chicago. Daily Masses will resume in the church on Monday, June 15th from Mondays through Saturdays at 9:00 am.

Reconciliation, Adoration, Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

We will also continue to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation outdoors on Saturdays from noon until 2:00 pm and open the day chapel for prayer and adoration on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be celebrated as needed.

How will this work?

All who wish to attend Mass will be required to sign-up in advance using this link:

<https://sttheresachurch.org/mass-reservations/>

- Please note: each individual person wishing to attend Mass must be registered so, for example, a wife and husband would be two separate registrations.
- If you (or if you know someone) are not able to register online due to a lack of internet access, please call the parish at 847-358-7760 and someone will get back to you to discuss arrangements for you to attend.
- Pre-Mass registration needs to be done to allow for the current mandate which requires large gatherings to offer some system of contact tracing if someone gets sick. Attendance records will be destroyed every 14 days.
- Masks will be required of all participants and they will be required to use hand sanitizer as they enter the church.
- Greeters will assist you in finding your seats once you enter the Gathering Space and will assist you when you depart after Mass is concluded.
- Seats will be sanitized before each Mass and social distancing will be observed at all times.
- Hymnals and other worship aids will not be distributed, but you will be given instructions on how to download the Mass parts on your phone.
- The Archdiocese asks that you receive Holy Communion on the hands at this time and we will not yet be able to offer the Precious Blood.
- As all will enter on the Dolan Center side of the church, you are encouraged to park in the Dolan Lot.

Why all this?

The term “abundance of caution” has become part of the global lexicon in recent months, and that is what is behind the current restrictions for the celebration of Mass. We wish to keep all of our parishioners, volunteers and guests safe, happy and healthy. Having said this, one shouldn't be afraid to participate in the Mass at St. Theresa. Appropriate measures are being taken to offer you as safe a worship environment as we can during this time of re-entry. I am very grateful for our Leadership Team that has been working long hours to get us to this point. They know what they are doing and are excellent at making sure you will have a clean environment to worship in.

As you can imagine, this effort requires many people to make it work smoothly and efficiently. Please consider volunteering. You will only be asked to work a one hour shift and you will be trained by one of our team captains. Please sign up at servicehours@sttheresachurch.org or you can call me at 847-358-7760 if you do not have access to email. The number of Masses we can offer and the number of people allowed in church will be directly tied to how many volunteers will be available to set-up, greet and clean-up before and after each Mass.

I would ask all of you to please be patient with this process. Rudeness will not be tolerated ever.

I hope you are as excited as I am to come home to Mass! Woohoo! I know this may not be as "big" a re-entry as you may have been hoping for, but after almost three months away, it is a start. My hope and prayer is that we will be able to accelerate our re-entry to normal parish life once we have the volunteers we need to ensure everyone's safety at greater capacities.

May God bless you all and welcome home once again!

Love,



Fr. Tim Fairman
Pastor

St. Theresa Re-Opening Mass Schedule

All who wish to attend Mass will be required to sign-up in advance using this link: <https://sttheresachurch.org/mass-reservations/>

Weekends of June 6-7 and June 13-14

Limit of 50 people, pre-registration required.

Saturdays, June 6 and June 13

6:30pm

Sundays, June 7 and June 14

7:30am

10:00am (will also be live-streamed)

Weekend of June 20-21 and beyond

Increased seating capacity TBD, pre-registration required.

Saturdays

4:00pm

6:30pm

Sundays

7:30am

10:00am (will also be live-streamed)

Weekday Mass Schedule

Beginning Monday, June 15 – Seating limitations, pre-registration required

Mondays through Saturdays at 9:00am in the Church

Reconciliation

Outdoors - Saturdays from noon until 2:00 pm

Adoration and Private Prayer

In the day chapel

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be celebrated as needed.

For timely updates, please visit the parish website daily: www.sttheresachurch.org

Please sign up for Flocknote so you can receive up-to-the-minute email announcements from St. Theresa Parish as we move through these phases of reopening. Text LITTLEWAY to 84576 or register online at <http://sttheresaparish5.flocknote.com>