



## **Public Celebrations of Sunday Mass** **At Nativity Parish**

- *During the COVID-19 Pandemic* -

Bishop Parkes recently announced (5/19/20) that churches in the Diocese of St. Petersburg will be open for **public celebrations of the Mass on Sundays** starting May 30-31. Listed below are some things to know if you are thinking about attending a public celebration of the Mass at Nativity Parish next weekend.

### **Mass Times and Locations on May 30-31**

- Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>
  - 4 pm – Main Church – English
  - 4 pm – Gym – Español

*(Confessions are not yet being scheduled for Saturday afternoons.)*
  
- Sunday, May 31
  - 8:30 am – Main Church – English
  - 8:30 am – Gym – English
  
  - 10:30 am – Main Church – English
  - 10:30 am – Gym – English
  
  - 12:30 pm – Main Church – Español
  - 12:30pm – Gym – Español

*(The 7 am and 6 pm Masses are cancelled at this time.)*

### **If You Attend Mass at Nativity Church this Weekend**

- **Please wear a face mask – while in church and while on the Nativity Parish campus**
- Wash / sanitize your hands often. Consider bringing your own sanitizer with you.
- Bring Lysol/Clorox wipes with you if you want to wipe down the surfaces where you will be sitting.
- Observe social distancing / keep six feet apart from others. Families are welcome to sit together.
- Sit in the areas marked by the blue tape; avoid the pews blocked by the signs.
- Refrain from shaking hands / hugging others.
- Do not form groups / socialize with others in a group before and after Mass.



# NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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- **Please receive Holy Communion in the hand.** If the hand/fingers of the EMHC or the clergy touch your face or tongue, they will have to leave that line in order to wash/sanitize their hands.

## **DO NOT ATTEND Public Celebrations of the Mass if You...**

- Are not feeling well – even if you are suffering symptoms OTHER than COVID 19 – like fever, nausea, dizziness.
- If you are immune-compromised.
- If you are elderly.
- If you are anxious about gathering in a public setting.

*(The obligation to participate in Sunday Mass has been suspended by Bishop Parkes for the next several weeks, at the very least. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS AT THIS TIME.**)*

## **We Want You to Know...**

- The church / gym are regularly cleaned during the week.
- The church / gym will be sanitized twice a week.
- **NEVERTHELESS, and despite our best efforts,** entering these public facilities still carries some risk of getting sick.
- If you are anxious or worried about gathering for public celebrations of the Mass on Sunday, then you are encouraged to remain home.

## **Live-Streaming the Mass**

- The 4 pm Saturday Vigil Mass in English will be live-streamed; it will then be available for viewing on our various social media platforms.
- The 12:30 pm Sunday Mass in Español will be live-streamed; it will then be available for viewing on our various social media platforms.

## **Possible Change in Schedule**

- The time and schedule of Sunday Masses may change week-to-week.
- Check our website other social media platforms for the latest updates.
- Public celebrations of the **Mass in English on weekdays** will be held in the **Main Church** Monday through Friday at 8 am. Morning Prayer will not be publicly celebrated at this time.
- Public celebrations of the **Mass during the week in Español** will be held in the **Main Church** on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 pm.



# NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## **Conclusion**

- Please be judicious and prayerful when making the decision whether or not to return to public celebrations of the Mass. Your good health and protecting the good health of others is paramount and is the foundation for making such a decision.
- Restarting public celebrations of Sunday Mass will be an uneven (and perhaps uneasy) process. Doing so is anxiety-producing for many and on many levels. I know I can depend on your patience and kindness as we begin this process. Our staff is dedicated to making this transition as smooth and worry-free as possible.
- Finally, as people of faith, we are confident that God will guide us as we journey forward together.

**In Christ's love,  
*Fr. John Tapp***