

St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Parish Returns to Church

Bishop George Leo Thomas has granted permission to begin the limited public celebration of Mass in accord with the guidelines and limitations issued by the governor of Nevada.

The Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect in the Diocese of Las Vegas until further notice. As you read this material, please remember that all of us are dispensed from the obligation to attend weekend Mass---meaning we can choose to go to Mass, but none of us is obligated to attend.

We are pleased to announce that public celebration of Mass at St. Joseph, Husband of Mary will begin this weekend, Saturday, June 6 using a modified schedule with limited attendees. Confessions will be heard by appointment only. The church will not be open for prayer outside of the Mass at this time. Please call the office at 702.363.1902 to set an appointment. Daily Masses will begin at 8:00 AM in the Church beginning Monday, June 8. Please review the Mass Schedule section of this announcement for details.

Below, you will see the specific measures that will be in place as we transition to the public celebration of Mass. Mass will not be quite like before as we enter this limited phase of operation. Sadly, this is a time when nothing is unaffected by COVID-19. We ask you, please, to accept these limitations in humility, charity, and peace. They will help us protect our own health and the health of our family and friends.

Do not feel guilty if you try to attend but socially distanced spacing prevents you for being able to attend. Space is very limited during this transition.

Please remember that none of us is accustomed to this new set of procedures. We all need to remain flexible and generous. We need to remember that, depending on how it goes in these first few Masses, we may find that some of this is changed at a later date.

During this time we will continue to stream Sunday Mass to our Facebook page at 10:00 AM, but will no longer stream the daily Mass Starting Monday, June 8.

During the Week, Before Coming to Weekend Mass

As you will read below, the interim occupancy limit imposed on our parish by the State of Nevada is temporarily reduced to 50 persons beginning June 6, 2020. This includes the priest and the supporting ministers and staff. This limit will pose a challenge for each of us but let us try to keep a peaceful and charitable heart.

To keep us at our limited capacity, you will be required to reserve a spot ahead of time by calling our parish office at 702.363.1902 from Wednesday-Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM to reserve one of the spaces available for each Mass. No reservations will be taken by email or via our social media. Because of space limits of up to 50 people, we are giving preference to registered parishioners and their immediate family.

Wellness-checks will be performed before entry into the Mass. Mass attendees will be required to wear a mask. All family members must check-in together at one time before the beginning of Mass. No one is allowed in the Church once the presider begins Mass.

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The modified Mass schedule is as follows beginning Saturday, June 6:

Saturday Vigil Mass	4:30 PM	Church
Saturday Vigil Mass	4:30 PM	Hall
Sunday Morning Mass	7:00 AM	Hall
Sunday Morning Mass	8:00 AM	Church
Sunday Morning Mass	9:00 AM	Hall
Sunday Morning Mass	10:00 AM	Church
Sunday Morning Mass	11:00 AM	Hall
Sunday Noon Mass	12:00 Noon	Church

Weekday Masses are as follows beginning Monday, June 8:

Monday and Friday	8:00 AM	Church
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00 AM	Church
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00 AM	Hall

This schedule will allow Maintenance staff to clean and sanitize public areas between Masses.

Before Leaving Home

Again, all persons are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice from the Bishop. Even without Mass, however, Sunday should be observed as a day of prayer, rest, family, quiet meditation, and peace.

A person who has symptoms of any illness or who has been exposed to the COVID-19 virus within the past fourteen days, or who has a fever of 100.4 or higher, must not come to the church.

A person who is sixty years of age or older, or who has chronic health conditions, or whose immune systems is compromised, or who would not be comfortable worshipping at church, is strongly encouraged not to attend Mass at the church.

A person who is responsible for the care of someone who is elderly or vulnerable should weigh the benefits of attending Mass versus the risk of exposure to someone under their care.

If you fall into any of these categories, we encourage you to continue to watch an electronic presentation of the Mass. We will continue streaming the 10:00 AM Mass on Sundays to our parish Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sjhomlv). As you know, other options include EWTN Masses on cable television and other alternatives on-line.

Before coming to Mass, a person must have a mask and should wash hands. If possible, a person should bring some sanitizing wipes and a small personal container of hand sanitizer.

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There will be no hymnals or missalettes in the pews. If you have a copy of *Magnificat* or *This Day*, or if you have a Missal, you can bring it to follow the readings and responses.

Children of all ages are always welcome at St. Joseph. Please consider whether to bring small children who are in the age interval where they are old enough to be mobile, but too young to have the self-control necessary to maintain social distance.

Coming to the Church

A person coming to Mass must bring a mask to church and must wear it all times when within the church, including as the person enters and exits. The mask may, however, be momentarily lowered or raised as the person transfers the consecrated Host to the mouth after receiving Communion in the hand.

The door to the church or hall will open 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass. You will need to check in at our Wellness Station when you enter the Church. Please wait until your whole family is present before you check-in. Your party will not be checked in without all your reserved spots present.

- Our receptionist will check you in by your name and reservation number. Families will have a number for each family member. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED SEATING WITHOUT A CONFIRMED RESERVATION.** Our seating is very limited during this transition.
- You must wear your Mask when entering the Church. This is a Diocesan directive - not a request.
- An employee or Usher will take your temperature using our infrared thermometer. You will not be allowed access if your body temperature is 100.4 or higher. Those who refuse this will not be allowed access.
- You will be asked to confirm that you do not have an illness and to the best of your knowledge, have not been exposed to COVID-19.
- You will need to sanitize your hands.

Our Usher will escort you to your assigned seat(s). If a family is seated together, the Usher is responsible for determining what seat is socially distanced based upon the location available.

A person coming to Mass must remain six feet from any other persons at all times when in the church. You may experience a line when you check-in. Please stand on the red "X" marked on the floor. This distance need not be observed with regard to persons residing in the same household. A person may be within six feet of another person momentarily to allow the reception of Communion.

Even though we are using confirmed reservations, we will reach our capacity for each Mass. If you did not make a reservation in advance you will be turned away and asked to call our office to make a reservation for another Mass time. If you receive this direction from a priest, a sacristan, or an usher, please do not argue the point. Please instead remember that each of these persons is

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your fellow parishioner who is working to keep everyone safe so that we can continue to attend the Mass.

Physical Changes in the Church

The capacity of the church is very limited during the State's Phase 2 transition period. Pews will be marked as open or closed, with two closed pews between each open pew. Open pews spots will be socially distanced six feet apart for assigned seating. Families may sit together, but the next assigned seat must be six feet away. Your Usher will escort you to your seat. Please don't argue with the Usher. This is a volunteer who is following Diocesan guidelines.

Again, the hymnals and missalettes have been removed from the church. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own missals or copies of Magnificat or This Day.

Holy water fonts will not be filled during this time.

Before, during, and after Mass, the only open areas will be the church, the Narthex and the restrooms. Each of these locations have been sanitized and will be sanitized again when you leave Mass.

Please limit what you touch when using the restrooms and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before exiting the restrooms.

Where possible, entrance doors will be held open to lessen the need to touch surfaces.

The chapel will be closed.

Unfortunately, to maintain safe sanitization procedures, the Church will not be open for personal prayer after Mass or during other times during the day. You are encouraged, as always, to find time for personal prayer and meditation every day.

Please be aware that we will be streaming the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. You can access this live on Facebook if you are unable attend Mass. If we are recording, you may find equipment or persons in your line of sight. There is a chance that you may also appear on camera at some point. While this may be distracting, please accept it as a charity for those who cannot join us, except through these remote opportunities.

Before Mass

As previously mentioned, this is new for all of us. Please be generous in accepting directions from our staff and ushers who are directing the preparations for Mass.

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To avoid issues of proper distancing, please follow the six-foot distancing rule while in the check-in line. Follow the usher as they escort you to your assigned seat rather than standing and visiting near the entrance. Graciously accept that you and your family may not be in the seats that you prefer.

Collection offerings will not be taken up during the Mass. We ask that you drop your offering in the collection basket available to you in the Church Narthex at the end of Mass.

During Mass

There will not be a formal opening or closing procession. The priest will enter shortly before Mass and will begin and end the Mass from the Sacristy.

Music will be simplified – just a cantor and accompanist. Because singing is a more forceful exhalation, please do not sing aloud. If you know a hymn, you may choose to hum it quietly to yourself.

The priest will say Mass from the altar. Servers will not assist during the Mass.

The priest will only use a mask during the distribution of Holy Communion to be clearly heard.

Lectors will remove their masks as they read.

As mentioned earlier, the collection will not be taken up during Mass. If you are not making on-line contributions, please place your offering in the collection basket in the Church Narthex after Mass.

The gifts will not be brought forward at the Offertory.

The exchange of peace will be omitted except for persons residing in the same household. Please do not hold hands during the Lord's prayer – the Our Father.

Eucharistic Ministers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing Holy Communion. The priest washes his hands during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Precious Blood will not be distributed during this time. The Body of Christ should not be received on the tongue. Please extend your hand with an open palm for Communion.

Please come forward for Holy Communion by row as you have in the past. The ushers will guide you so that we can be socially 6 feet distance from one another. You can remove your mask for Communion. The priest and Eucharistic Minister will wear masks during the distribution of Communion.

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After Mass

If you have sanitizing wipes with you, please take a moment after Mass to wipe off the pew surfaces you have touched.

To facilitate safe departure from Masses, ushers will dismiss pews, from the back to the front. Please be courteous of others space and distance yourself as appropriate.

The mask must continue to be worn as you leave the church.

There are no bulletins or other handouts before, during, or after Mass.

Please do not gather in the Church or the Narthex after Mass. There are no social gatherings after Mass.

Please say a prayer of thanksgiving that the opportunity to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is again available, even with all these limitations.

I pray that all our prayers may be lifted up before the Lord, that His saving grace give good health to us all and that no one in our community becomes sick as a result of these community celebrations.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mark Thomas Ameh, MSP
Parish Administrator