



**ST. CHARLES LWANGA PARISH**

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## St. Charles Lwanga Re-Opening Procedures

For the Parish Reopening, we have many additional PROTOCOLS that all parishioners must follow in order to attend Mass. These procedures will be re-evaluated weekly. If you would like to attend Mass, please read through the details below. Thank you for your patience and compliance.

Please realize that while we are excited to be returning to public liturgy, COVID-19 is still with us. As such, attending Mass will bring with it certain risks. We will try to moderate those risks by safety protocols. **The general obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (including the anticipatory Mass at 4:00pm or later on the previous day) is to be reinstated in the Archdiocese of Detroit effective Saturday, March 13, 2021.**

**Considering the grave obligation we have of being physically present with our brothers and sisters at Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation for the Eucharist, each of us is asked to make a good and sincere judgement as to whether these circumstances apply or not. Where doubt or confusion persists, consult any priest for clarity.**

While the general dispensation is removed, there are specific instances where the dispensation will continue, as well as those circumstances where there is no obligation in the first place. One does not have an obligation to attend Mass on Sunday in the following circumstances:

1. You are ill or your health condition would be significantly compromised if you were to contract a communicable illness (i.e., you have underlying conditions or are in a high-risk category). Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.
2. You exhibit flu-like symptoms. Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.
3. You have good reason to think you might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (e.g., you were in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as COVID or influenza). Please use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.
4. You care for the sick, homebound, or infirmed.
5. You are pregnant.
6. Those 65 years of age or older (per the CDC's recommendation of high-risk individuals).
7. You cannot attend Mass *through no fault of your own* (e.g., no Mass is offered, you are infirmed, or, while wanting to go, you are prevented for some reason you cannot control (e.g., your ride did not show up, the church was at capacity).
8. If you have *significant* fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.

For questions about the application of any of these, please contact your pastor.

These categories will be reviewed in due course and revised as needed.

Those within categories #1-8 above must still observe the Lord's Day and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday, meditating on the Lord's passion, death and resurrection; an excellent way to do this is through participating in a broadcast of the Sunday Mass.

**Furthermore, those who are 65 and over or those with high-risk health conditions SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME. This is the population that is most vulnerable to the Coronavirus. Of course, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not enter a church until released to do so by their health care professional.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

For your safety the rest rooms in the back of the Church will be open for emergencies only. They have been cleaned and sanitized. However, we are asking you to please use the bathroom at home before you come to Church. If you have an emergency and must use the restroom you will be provided with 2 Lysol Wipes to clean prior to using the facility. An Usher will have the wipes in the back of the Church.

### **Effective Immediately**

- Please enter by the MAIN DOORS on Livernois.
- Wearing a mask is required. It must cover your nose and mouth.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer.
- Sit only in designated pews.
- Social distancing is to be maintained.
- Masses will resume at 10:00 a.m.
- Unfortunately, due to CDC guidelines, transportation ministry will not be offered at this time.
- **Fr. Parker's online Gospel Reflection videos will still be available on YouTube, Facebook, and sent via email on Sunday mornings.**

### **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE**

- The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered "at risk" by the CDC (**65-years and over and those with high-risk health conditions**) SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME and not attend Mass in person for their own safety.
- Wash your hands.
- Masks and face coverings are required on campus & during Mass.

- Bring your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Holy Communion.
  - St. Charles Lwanga does not have a current supply to provide for all congregants.
- Please do not bring items that contain bleach into the sanctuary as this will damage the pews.
- **THE RECTORY IS OPEN ON A LIMITED BASIS.**

## **MASS ARRIVAL PROCEDURES**

- Only the MAIN DOORS on Livernois will be used for entry. The SIDE DOORS on Stearns will be used for exit. **The Rectory doors will be closed for entry.** (Please, park accordingly.)
- Masks and face coverings are required on campus and during Mass for everyone over the age of 2 years old.
- Arrive 20-30 minutes before Mass begins to stand in line, while observing social distancing.
- The Livernois doors of the church will open at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays.
- Ushers will seat your household. **You must wait to be escorted.**
- The church will be seated to fill the open pews from front to back.
- Every two pews will be closed with no more than 3 people to a pew unless they are from the same household.
- You may be sharing a pew with another household, but 6 feet social distance is required between the households.
  - Family only pews will be marked with blue tape.
  - Individuals will be marked with green tape; 3 individuals to a pew.
- Bathrooms in the Rectory will be closed.
- Bathrooms in the back of the church are for emergency purposes only. Please use the restroom before arriving to Mass.
- The holy water fonts will remain empty.

**Please remain respectful with those tasked with ushering.**

## **MASS PROCEDURES**

- Masses will be conducted with reduced volunteer lay ministers. There will be no altar servers.
- **NO** Presentation of Gifts or Offertory will take place.
- Masks and face coverings are required on campus and during Mass.
- Please refrain from all physical contact between households.

- No holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- No Sign of Peace.
- We will not bring our gifts up to the altar during the offertory. You will be able to place your weekly gift in a basket as you **enter** the church. Please fill out your envelope and checks before you arrive. You may continue to mail in your donation or drop it off in the Rectory mail slot. Neither Father nor Ushers will be able to take your envelope after or during Mass. We strongly encourage online giving at: <https://saintcharleslwanga.com/online-giving>
- In order to comply with safety guidelines, no one will be allowed to leave Mass early (before the final blessing).

## HOLY COMMUNION & MASS DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

- Holy Communion will be distributed as normal, from the main aisle, but there will not be a communion station at the break away.
- Ushers will dismiss each pew. **Do not leave your seat until directed.**
- Holy Communion will be distributed by Fr. Parker and one minister.
- Holy Communion will be distributed **only** by the Host -- the Body of Christ. The Precious Blood will **not** be offered to the congregation. *As Catholics, we believe that Christ is fully present Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity even when we only receive either the Body or Blood of Christ at Mass. You are also not required to receive each time you attend Mass. You may continue with 'Spiritual Communion' if you prefer.*
- Holy Communion will be received by the hand only.
- You may not receive communion wearing gloves
- Use of personal hand sanitizer before Holy Communion is required. *(Please, bring your own).*
- No blessing of non-Communicants will be offered by directive of the Archdiocese (for now).

## MASS FINAL PROCESSION & DEPARTURE

- After the final Mass blessing, parishioners **must** remain in their pew.
- Pews will be dismissed in an orderly fashion starting in the front of the church and then moving back.
- Please be patient with our senior parishioners who may move a little slower.
- You must exit your pew when prompted. **Private prayer will not available after Sunday Masses to allow the church to be cleaned.**
- Ushers will dismiss each pew.
- You will exit the Church at the side door facing Stearns

- Fr. Parker will not shake hands but he will greet parishioners after Mass from the 6ft distance. Please remember to maintain your 6ft. social distancing.
- No contact should occur between households.

## **CHURCH CLEANING PROCEDURES**

- St. Charles Lwanga will continue to implement cleanliness and sanitization practices, including cleaning pews after Mass.
- Disinfecting bathrooms, door handles, and other frequently touched surfaces occur throughout the day.
- Parish staff and Ushers will be required to wear face masks, wash hands, and will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

**You are reminded to follow CDC recommendations regarding your own health. The Archbishop is strongly recommending those considered “at risk” by the CDC (65-years and over or those with high-risk health conditions) not attend Mass in person for their own safety. If you fall into an “at risk” category, please stay home and view Father Parker’s online Gospel Reflection.**

**If you test positive with COVID-19 within 14 days of attending Mass, please notify the parish immediately.**

## **OTHER SACRAMENTS**

**Baptisms:** St. Charles Lwanga is now scheduling the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.

**First Holy Communion:** Families will be notified when classes are being schedule.

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be offered on Sunday, 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in the main church sanctuary.

- Please enter the church by handicap ramp entrance on Stearns.
- Wearing a mask is required.
- Upon entry and exit, wash your hands in the bathroom there.
- Please maintain social distance (6 feet) apart when waiting.
- Confessions will take place in the main sanctuary. Set-up will allow your confession to be private while maintaining social distance.
- For prayer, please stay in your place.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Holy Communion for the Sick and viaticum for the dying will only be distributed by priests. Priests will continue to minister to the sick where they are permitted.

**Funerals:** Guidelines for funerals will be forthcoming.

## **PARISH OFFICE**

The office is open on a limited basis. Our staff will continue to work from home as possible with some limited office hours as needed. Fr. Parker is available for ministerial needs. In case of an emergency please call our Pastoral Associate: Angela Thomas-Weldon at 248-224-0533.