

Resuming Holy Mass in Church at Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Coteau, LA

As we move to Phase 1 in reestablishing our "normal" pattern following COVID-19 and the Stay at Home Mandate, we will begin offering public Mass on the Weekend of May 16-17. Keep in mind that the Bishop has kept in place the dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass especially for those who are elderly and vulnerable. The Bishop has also extended permission for the utilization of a weekday Mass to fulfill your Sunday Obligation for those who wish to attend Mass and are not otherwise able to do so due to age or medical condition.

Here are the procedures that must take place for public Mass.

- We are allowed only one entrance to the church. All attending holy Mass will enter from the front **entrance facing Hwy 88**.
- **Doors will open 30 minutes prior to Mass times.** We ask that you please follow social distancing protocol when entering the church.
- No more than 25% of the building seating capacity will be allowed. At Our Lady of Prompt Succor the **number is 98**. Please understand that per the Louisiana State Governor's directive, the ushers will be required to not allow more than the specified capacity.
- If the church reaches its maximum capacity, we will direct the **overflow crowd to go to the church hall** where they will be able to watch the Mass via livestream. Communion will be brought to them at the appropriate time.
- Everyone attending is **highly encouraged to wear a face mask**. We have a limited supply of facemasks for distribution should you need one.
- For safe distancing, we will mark off every other pew in the church. Households may sit together; all others must sit six feet apart.
- The hymnals and missalettes have been removed from the pews.
- As much as we would like to socialize and visit with members of our parish family, we are **not allowed to congregate or socialize after the Mass is concluded**. All must leave the church immediately at the end of Mass once the clergy have processed out of church. This will allow for ample time for volunteers to clean the church for the next Mass.
- Ushers will distribute our parish bulletin to you and will take the normal collections. They will assist you in proper seating distancing, proper spacing for the reception of Holy Communion, and any other needs that you may have. The ushers will wear face masks while assisting you.
- **Following each Mass, the church will be disinfected. We are desperately in need of volunteers to remain after each to perform this task.**
- Music for Holy Mass will be led by cantor.

Guidelines for Distribution of Holy Communion are as follows:

- Reception of Holy Communion is **strongly encouraged to be received in the hand.**
- The **congregation will remain in the pews for the Reception of Holy Communion.** The minister of Holy Communion will come to you. If you are not comfortable receiving Holy Communion, please place your finger over your mouth.
- Remove your face mask once the minister has arrived to distribute Holy Communion. If you are wearing gloves, please remove your gloves before you receive Holy Communion.
- You **must keep your hand flat for the reception of Holy Communion.** Do not grab the Blessed Sacrament.

Mass Times:

Mass times have been slightly adjusted for Our Lady of Prompt Succor **for the time being.** It is subject to change once we have seen how the attendance of Mass goes. If we need more Masses, we'll try to accommodate. If we need fewer Masses, then we'll adjust accordingly. The times of Holy Mass for the weekends are as follows:

- **Saturday: 4pm (designated Mass for those who are 65 and older and are in good health)**

We understand that people who are 65 and older are at a higher risk of experiencing worse symptoms than others if they contract the coronavirus. Thus, the 4pm Mass **for the time being** is designated as the Mass for those who are 65 and older and are in good health. If you are clearly younger than 65 and insist on attending Mass at this designated Mass for those who are 65 and older and are in good health, then you will be asked to wait and see if the church fills up and overflows into the hall. If that happens, you will be asked to go to one of the other 4 available weekend Masses or any of the 4 weekday Masses. If the Mass does not overflow then you can attend Mass in the hall. We understand that this might be inconvenient. However, we all must make sacrifices for each other during these unprecedented times and the safety of our most vulnerable parishioners is an essential priority at Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

- **Saturday: 5:30pm – extra Mass**
- **Sundays: 7am, 9am, and 11am.**
- **Tuesday at 5:30 pm**
- **Wednesday-Friday at 7am**

Confession Times:

Confessions will continue to be heard outside under the parish life center porch in the drive-thru format:

- Saturdays: 3-4pm
- Wednesdays and Thursdays: 5:30-6:30pm
- Please note there will be no confessions before daily Masses.