



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Archdiocese of Galveston Houston

1907 Carolina St, Baytown, TX
281-420-3588 Phone, 281-422-3044 Fax
stjosephbaytown.org

*One Family of God in Christ
We Grow in Faith Through Love*

Pandemic Response Procedures for attending Mass

It is a great joy to welcome you back to church, as we implement prudent plans to cautiously resume some of our activities in these challenging times of the pandemic. Celebration of Public Mass is now allowed, but under procedures that maintain highest priority on health and safety.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days continues to be suspended. No one is required to attend church during this time of pandemic. The most vulnerable are encouraged to remain home.

Social distancing is to be maintained – no church or building may exceed 25% of its capacity. All church doors will remain accessible as exits, but the number of entrances to the church will be limited. Once inside, a distance of six feet or more must be maintained between groups and individuals who are not from the same household, both in the pews and when coming forward for Holy Communion. Thank you for your observance of all markings inside the church, and for your cooperation with people who will be helping to ensure social distancing.

Upon entering and leaving the church, use of hand sanitizer is encouraged and will be provided. Holy water fonts remain empty. All people entering the building are to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth.

With everyone wearing masks and with the goal to minimize personal contact, modifications for Holy Communion will be significant. Only one aisle/line will be used for coming forward, and only the priest will distribute Holy Communion. Masks will remain on, so communion will be possible only in the hand, not on the tongue. Hands are to be held out, and held open, so that the priest may drop the host onto the palm without touching the recipient's hand. Holding the host with the fingers of one hand, the recipient is to move several feet to the side, and only then uses the other hand to lower his/her mask to consume the host.

The collection will not be taken up in the traditional fashion by ushers. Instead, a basket will be in front of the Baptismal font for you to drop your donation in. However, it is preferred that you continue to send your offering through the US Mail, Mail slot of the church office, or Online Giving. For questions or assistance with on-line giving, contact the church office during the week.

After each Mass, all surfaces that are regularly touched – door handles, pews, cry room, restroom areas, etc. – are to be cleaned and disinfected prior to the next Mass.

Because the church is limited to 25% capacity, and because the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is suspended, you may wish to consider attending weekday Mass as an alternative, if possible. Also, Mass continues to be available online by visiting www.stjosephbaytown.org

Thank you again for your patience and support of these efforts to meet spiritual needs, while remaining attentive to health and safety priorities.