



Things to know as we reopen St. Edward Church

Weekend Mass will resume on the weekend of May 30-31; the normal weekend Mass schedule will be followed.

Weekday Masses will resume on Monday, May 25th (Memorial Day), with Mass at 9:00am and Rosary at 8:35am.

These directives are based on instructions from the Diocese of Cleveland, health authorities, and “best practices” from other dioceses.

Your attention to these things will help all of us to be safe as we return to Mass.

General Mass Procedures

- Anyone who feels sick must not attend Mass. Please check temperatures at home before coming to church. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect if you cannot attend Mass.
- Face coverings are **STRONGLY** encouraged, except those for whom it is medically a problem. **Please consider this a personal request from Fr. Rod to wear a face covering.**
- Gloves can be worn at your discretion.
- Please do not bring extra items to Mass, except personal missals. Please limit size of purses or bags. Please limit items for small children if needed.
- At least one outer door to the church will be blocked open before and after Mass. All interior doors will be blocked open before and after Mass.
- Because the doors are open, please do not socialize in the Gathering Area or in church before Mass. Please allow others the opportunity to pray before Mass in quiet.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the Gathering Area.
- Pews will be blocked off with a red cord. Please maintain social distancing in the pews. Families may sit next to each other. Note, this means you may not be able to sit in “your” pew, or may have to sit closer to the altar.
- All Missalettes have been removed from the church. You may use electronic devices to follow the readings, but please do not be tempted to check email, Facebook, Twitter, or other things during the Mass.
- Offertory baskets have been placed at various places in the church. There will be no collection or offertory procession during Mass.
- The Sign of Peace will be dropped.
- After Mass, please maintain social distancing when exiting church. Also, DO NOT gather in the Gathering Area—please take all conversations outside to the Prayer Patio or parking lot. Do not remain in church to talk either, please allow those who wish to stay and pray the opportunity to do so in quiet.
- Door handles will be sanitized between Masses.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

- We will not use the regular confessional. A confessional has been set up in the Tabernacle area. Please follow posted signs.
- Confession will be “behind the screen” only. A chair is set up; there will be NO kneeling.
- In preparation for returning to Mass, Fr. Rod will offer the sacrament as follows:
 - Saturday, May 23rd from 2:00-4:00pm. (no weekend Mass yet)
 - Sunday, May 24th from 10:00-12:00noon. (no Sunday Mass yet)
 - Saturday, May 30th from 2:00-4:00pm. (followed by Mass)
 - Regular confession time will resume the weekend of June 6-7.
 - As always, confession can be arranged by appointment; please call the Parish Office.

Communion

- Please maintain social distancing in the communion line; one pew between people is preferred.
- Distribution of communion will be of the Host only.
- When you come forward, please STOP at the first pew; a mark will be on the floor to remind you. The minister will come to you for communion.
- To receive communion, you MUST remove face covering and gloves before the minister gives communion. After receiving and consuming the Host, please replace your covering/gloves.
- Receiving “on the tongue” or “in the hand” is a personal choice, and either way cannot be demanded by the Church. **However, I am asking another personal favor that ALL people receive “in the hand” ONLY.** Consider it a small sacrifice and offer it to the Lord for those who cannot receive. Anyone who receives “on the tongue,” must receive communion ONLY FROM FR.

ROD: stop at the first pew, remove face covering, stand still, and Fr. Rod will come to you.

- If you receive a Low Gluten host, please see Fr. Rod before Mass for updated instruction.
- If you cannot process forward, Fr. Rod will come to you, as usual, at the end of communion.
- As was the practice, please remain standing until all have received communion.

Some details of these instructions may need to be adjusted as we adapt to circumstances. Please be patient as we all learn these new procedures.

Specific instructions have been given to liturgical ministers (Readers and Ministers of Communion) as they perform their ministry.

Please direct any questions to Fr. Rod at the Parish Office (419-289-7224) or pastor@stedwardashland.org.

Pray that these restrictions may be temporary as we move forward together—in Christ!

