



St. Helena Church
6161 N. 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19120
www.sainthelenaparish.net



May 29, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Helena Church,

Great news! Archbishop Pérez has announced that parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be able to resume public Masses the weekend of June 6 and 7. We at St. Helena look forward to welcoming you back! **Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we make our way back to the "in-person" celebration of the Mass.**

It is hard to believe that it has been almost three months since we have been together because of the "stay-at-home" order due to the coronavirus. YOU are the living, breathing members of St. Helena Church. We missed you...your smiles, your singing, and most especially your physical presence. Soon, we will be able to return to some sense of normality in our lives and you will be able to "come home" to St. Helena Church once again. In the song, Hosea, we hear the words, "Long have I waited for your coming home to me". These words are no more important than they are today, for us who wait to return to church. Our Mass time schedule remains the same but the locations have changed. **The 4:30pm Vigil Mass and 8:00am & 11:15am Mass will be in the Lower Church. The 9:30am and 12:30pm Mass will be in the Upper Church.** During your time away, we have made some repairs and additions to the Lower Church and the parish property. Below are some things you will see when you return to church.

1. New painting of the Lower Church.
2. Hand-rails installed in the sanctuary of the Lower Church and choir area.
3. Mary, Mother of All Nations Shrine in the back of the Lower Church. If you wish to donate the Blessed Mother from your ethnicity, please let us know.
4. Cleaning and sanitizing the Lower and Upper Churches.
5. Signs in the parking lot regarding authorized parking.
6. Shrubbery trimmed around the rectory.
7. Repairing the outside speakers for the Church Bells

While our county remains in the Yellow Phase of statewide reopening, all of us need to do our part to make sure that our return to Mass is a peaceful and safe experience for all. Please take the time to read the instructions below. We ask everyone to follow these guidelines when attending Mass during this period:

GENERAL POINTS

1. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation continues to be lifted during the Yellow Phase. You are not required to attend Mass at this time.
2. Please stay home if you are sick.
3. Please stay home if you are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. If you are uncertain about your risk status, please consult your doctor and also the CDC Guidelines at the link below. Click here to read the CDC Guidelines for those at higher risk:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>
4. Mass will continue to be available via live-stream.

BEFORE COMING TO MASS

1. Please wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and water and use the bathroom. Try not to use the Church bathroom.
2. Before entering the Church, please put on a face mask or cloth covering. Exceptions to this are "children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance" (CDC Guidelines).

ENTERING THE CHURCH

1. Please bring your own mask and hand sanitizer with you. Hand sanitizers will be available at the Church entrances, if needed. Please sanitize your hands and put your mask on before entering the Church.
2. The two doors closest to **Lawrence Street are for ENTER ONLY**. They are marked **Door #1 ENTER ONLY** (Rectory Side) and **Door #2 ENTER ONLY** (Schoolyard Side).`

SEATING

1. When taking your seat, please sit in the pews where the **BLUE** tape is posted.
2. Members of the same household may sit together as normal. The pews on the Blessed Mother side after the break will be marked Families Only...one pew, one family

DURING MASS

1. There will be no songbooks or missalettes in the pews. Missalettes will be available for you to take and keep. Please bring the missalette with you every time you come to Mass. Donation for the Missalette can be dropped in the receptacle found in the back of the church.
2. A collection will be taken up during the Offertory as usual using long-handled baskets. Ushers will wear gloves and mask.
3. For the Sign of Peace during Mass, we ask that you bow...no handshaking.
4. There should be no holding of hands during the Our Father.
5. The Precious Blood will not be distributed during Mass during the Yellow Phase.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

1. When coming to Communion, please form one line on each **SIDE** aisle. There will be two stations. The Priest or Deacon will stand behind the altar rail. Please maintain social distancing in the Communion line. Please keep several pews between yourself and the person in front of you while in line and when returning to your pew.
2. Please remove one side of your mask before receiving Holy Communion. Once you have received Holy Communion, the mask it to be put back on for the remainder of the Mass. After you receive Communion, return to your place by the **CENTER** aisle.
3. During the Yellow Phase, **the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand**.

EXITING THE CHURCH

1. At the conclusion of Mass, please exit the Church by the two doors closest to **Fifth Street are for EXIT ONLY**. They are marked **Door #3 EXIT ONLY** (Rectory Side) and **Door #4 EXIT ONLY** (Schoolyard Side) and proceed directly to your car. Please do not congregate for any reason.
2. Please take home with you the parish Bulletin(s), Missalette, and Palm which will be on the back table for you to pick up. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING IN THE PEWS**. The bulletins will be marked according to the weekend published.
3. Please leave your mask on until you exit the Church.
4. After each Mass, we are in need of 2 volunteers to spray the pews using a backpack sanitizer.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

St. Helena Parish will follow the guidelines from the CDC for sanitation as we resume public Masses. To view the CDC guidelines, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html>

The daily 8:00am Mass and Saturday Vigil 4:30pm Mass and Sunday 8:00am and 11:15am Masses will be in the Lower Church. The 9:30am and 12:30pm Masses will be in the Upper Church. We will sanitize the pews and church interior after each mass. **The church will be sanitized after each Mass using a backpack sanitizer. We will need 2 men to stay after each Mass to help with this.** We will provide gloves and cleaning materials. This should only take about 15 to 20 minutes. **If you can help, please contact Msgr. Trinh, Father Peter, Sister Lan or Sister Sophie.** May God continue to watch over and protect you and your family today and always!

Blessings from your shepherd and brother,