# What to expect when you return to public Mass at St. Odilo Church: Page 1 of 3

- 1. In order to ensure social distancing, there will be limited seating inside the church.
- 2. Due to the limited seating, only parishioners who have a reservation will be admitted to the church for Mass.
- 3. A registered parishioner may reserve a seat for him-/herself and his/her family members living in the same house for the upcoming weekend Mass of his/her choice online by **clicking the link on our website**, **saintodilo.org**, or by **calling the rectory at 708-484-2161** on the Wednesday before from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. You will have to register separately for each Saturday or Sunday that you wish to attend Mass.
- 4. In order to allow time to disinfect the pews and check registrations for the next Mass, there will be a new Mass schedule with 90 minutes between each starting time:

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Saturday at 4:00 p.m. in English,
Sunday at
7:00 a.m. in Spanish,
8:30 a.m. in English,
10:00 a.m. in Latin,
11:30 a.m. in English and
1:00 p.m. in Spanish.
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## **Arriving at Church**

- Entrance will be at the doors in the front of the church only.
- Please wear your face mask while waiting in line until you have exited the church after Mass. You must wear your mask throughout the entire time inside the church.
- While waiting to enter, stand in line at the chalk marks on the sidewalk to allow for social distancing.
- When you arrive at the door give your reservation name to the usher who will check you
  in. Everyone in your group must check in at the same time as you because your
  household will be seated together.
- An usher will inquire about your health and spray your hands with sanitizer before you enter the church.
- Place your donations and envelopes in the basket by the entrance. There will be no basket passed during the offertory of the Mass.

### **Seating in Church**

- Enter the pews only by the closer side aisles (not the aisles closest to the wall).
- Enter the pew indicated by the usher; there will no longer be preferred/favorite seating.
- Sit only in the places marked by a blue-colored cross. However, if you are attending Mass with other members of your household, you will be seated together. Please sit together as the usher will need to adjust the seating for the others around you.
- Remain in the same seat for the entire Mass; do not change seats.

#### Stand, sit and kneel as usual during Holy Mass.

What to expect when you return to public Mass at St. Odilo Church: Page 2 of

# **Receiving Holy Communion**

- Wait for the usher to dismiss your pew to go up to the priest/deacon for Holy Communion.
- While standing in line, maintain 6-foot distancing by standing on the blue-colored lines on the floor.
- An usher will spray your hands with sanitizer when you reach the head of the line.
- After purifying your hands move up to the priest or deacon.
- Receive the Host in your non-dominant hand, step to the side, remove one side of your face mask with the other hand, then use that same hand to place the Host on your tongue.
- Replace your face mask across your mouth.
- Return to the same seat you came from. If you are seated in the center section of pews, return by way of the center aisle. If you are seated in the pews closer to the walls, return by way of the side aisle along the wall.

#### Finish attending the Mass until the dismissal.

#### Exiting the church after the Mass.

- You will exit the church only by way of the side doors to the left and the right of the Communion rail.
- Please remain in your seat until the usher dismisses your pew.
- Move up the side aisle and exit by the side doors next to the Communion rail on your side of the church.
- Do not congregate at the front of the church or in the vestibule (lobby) at the exits.
- Maintain 6-foot social distancing at all times.

#### **Handicapped Seating**

- Persons with disabilities who need to use the special handicap pews may enter the church from the west side door between the church and the school where those pews are located. (An usher will assist you.)
- Be prepared to give your reservation name to the usher and to follow the protocols explained above.

#### **Daily Masses**

Because our attendees at weekday Masses in the past have not exceeded the number of seats we have available in our church, there will be no need to make a reservation for the weekday public Masses. However, in order to expedite the disinfecting of the pews after the weekday Masses we have set the following seating procedure in place:

- Those parishioners attending the 6:30 a.m. Mass please sit in the benches on the **right** side as you face the altar.
- Those parishioners attending the 8:00 a.m. Mass please sit in the benches on the **left** side as you face the altar.

What to expect when you return to public Mass at St. Odilo Church: Page 3 of

# **Communion at Daily Mass**

There will be one priest distributing Holy Communion.

- Please come up to the priest at the center of the Communion rail by way of the center aisle.
- Receive Communion in the manner described above in the Sunday Mass section.
- Return to the same seat you occupied before receiving Communion by way of the side aisle.

The daily Mass schedule will remain the same as usual:

Monday through Friday at 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Admittedly, these new procedures will seem awkward at first. Most new practices are difficult in the beginning. Please keep in mind, however, that we have to follow these protocols in order to have our beautiful church open for public Mass during this time of the health crisis. We will adjust after a couple of weeks and get used to the new procedures in short time. Your cooperation will go a long way to helping us keep our church open for public Masses through this unusual time. God be with us all!