

# St. Thomas More NEWMAN CENTER



## Instructions to Attend Public Mass

The St. Thomas More Newman Center has created the following instructions to attend public Mass in accordance with requirements set by the Diocese of Jefferson City and the City of Columbia. These instructions have been created to keep everyone safe and healthy and to allow as many of our parishioners to celebrate Mass within the requirements. These instructions will be under evaluation and are subject to change throughout the month.

Although public Masses are resuming, please note that Bishop McKnight has dispensed the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for all the faithful in the diocese through June 30, 2020. We will continue to livestream all Masses on our Facebook page.

Those who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to another with the virus within 14 days are not permitted to enter the church, in accordance with national, state, and local health directives. Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are over 60 are strongly encouraged, for their health, to avoid the risk of attending public Mass.

### About Mass at Newman

- There will be one Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. Daily Mass will continue at Noon.
- All attendees are required to sign up to attend Mass. Those who have not signed up will not be permitted to enter the church.
- Children under the age of 10 may not attend Mass at this time.
- The chairs in the Chapel will be in groups of four (4). Each unit of four will hold one household. Your household will be assigned a unit (or units) when entering the church.
- Chairs in the Chapel and additional high contact areas (door handles, bathrooms, etc.) will be cleaned after each celebration of the Mass.

### Before Attending Mass

- All attendees are required to wear a mask at all times, except for the brief moment of receiving Holy Communion. Those who are not wearing a mask will not be permitted to enter the church. Masks will not be available at the parish.
- All attendees are required to maintain the social distancing standard of six (6) feet at all times, except for the brief moment of receiving Holy Communion.
- All attendees are asked to check their temperature, use the bathroom, and drink water at home before coming to church.
- All attendees are asked to follow the instructions listed here and any additional instructions of the staff while in the vicinity of the church.

## **Signing up for Mass**

- You may sign up for a maximum of one (1) Sunday Mass per month and a maximum of two (2) daily Masses per week.
- Access the sign ups on our website by clicking the “Attend Mass” button on the homepage, or visit **[www.comonewman.org/parish-sign-ups](http://www.comonewman.org/parish-sign-ups)**. If you have trouble accessing the sign up, please email Theresa Nguyen at [theresa@comonewman.org](mailto:theresa@comonewman.org) or call the parish office.
- The deadline to sign up for each Mass is 9 a.m. that day or when church seating is full, whichever comes first.

## **Attending Mass**

- Entrance into the church will be at two locations for Sunday Mass: one set of Gathering Space doors and the north Emergency Exit door.
  - Entrance into the church for daily Mass will be the Gathering Space doors.
- Exit and entrance doors to the Chapel to use the bathroom during Mass will be marked.
- The procedure for receiving Holy Communion is as follows:
  - All attendees will stay in their unit and the Eucharistic Minister will come to each unit.
  - During this time, Holy Communion will only be distributed in the hand in keeping with the advice of state health officials.
  - When the Eucharistic Minister approaches each unit, the communicant will present one hand resting on the palm of the other. The Eucharistic Minister will place the Eucharist in the communicant’s hands and the communicant will respond “Amen” with their mask on. After the Eucharistic Minister has stepped aside, the communicant can then reverently place the Eucharist in his or her mouth and replace their mask.
- Attendees may remain in the Chapel to pray for a short time after Mass has ended.