

From Fr Dennis Lamey Pastor

Re: celebration of Holy Mass at St Theresa's Sydney, NS

1. The Covid 19 Virus is still a danger to our community, province, and nation, and as we have seen in our neighbor's to the south can re-spread very quickly. This must not be forgotten – stay safe!
2. We as a Parish must abide by applicable guidelines to ensure the safety of all, while being able to worship in a safe way. We must all practice patience as we learn to adapt to a new form of attending Holy Mass.
3. The numbers at any given Mass set by the government is 200 people so that Social Distancing is observed at all times. This allows for approximately 150 at St Theresa's. You are asked to ATTEND ONLY ONE MASS PER WEEK.
4. Masks are encouraged and may be worn. Remember, it's not just about your comfort and safety – it's about the safety of others too.
5. Every second pew will be signed as “not in use” as well as the entire side aisles of the Church. This will ensure our Social Distancing.
6. Those pews to be used will have spacing between people of at least 6 feet, unless it is a family unit.
7. Hand sanitizer stations are already in place at all the entrances of our church. They should be used upon entering and leaving the church. Only the Church Center Entrance and the Parking Lot doors will be used for entering and leaving. Center Door Enter only – Parking Lot Door Exit only. Rear door is not to be used except for Sacristan, Priest and Lector.
8. Following each Mass, a group of volunteers will sanitize the pews, doorknobs, washrooms, etc.
9. Holy Water fonts will be empty.
10. Holy Communion will necessitate social distancing and extreme prudence. Instructions will follow at Mass.

11. The Priest will wear a mask and sanitize his hands before and following Holy Communion.
12. Holy Communion will be distributed only on the hand for the time being. It is NOT permitted to bring Holy Communion outside the Church to anyone right now.
13. Confession remains as requested - maintaining the Social Distancing guideline.
14. Choirs and other gatherings of people will be discontinued for the foreseeable future.
15. We will have to ask people to attend only one Mass per week. Reservations are necessary by calling the office Mon-Thurs 9am – 12 pm. I will put this on our Facebook and Parish webpages. Please be considerate and try to adjust to this new temporary system.
16. Please leave the Church immediately following Mass. Do not linger to talk with others. No hugs, handshakes or getting close to others.
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17. Older people and those with health issues need not attend Mass. You are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass. We will attempt to bring Sunday Mass to you online on our Parish Facebook page.
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18. Please: if you are sick, especially a fever, colds, the flu, or feeling poorly for any reason – STAY HOME. It's not just about your health – it's also about the health of others.
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19. There will be no hymnals in the pews, nor magazines in the Church, and no bulletin except for our Parish Webpage and Parish Facebook page.
20. If you know of anyone who attends mass at St Theresa's who does not have access to the internet, please pass these guidelines along.
21. Collections baskets will be conspicuously placed near all the entrances for your Parish weekly Offering. You won't be able to miss them!!!