



Newman Center Catholic Community at UC San Diego

PLAN FOR RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

INTRODUCTION

1. The Newman Center at UCSD shares a facility with Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, so all plans for reopening for public worship will be done in conjunction with the leadership of Good Sam, following the guidelines of both the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Dioceses of San Diego.
2. The Newman Center also recognizes that the vast majority of students at UCSD went home when the university was shut down in March. The spring quarter will end on June 12th. Therefore, between now and the beginning of the school year in late September, we expect a smaller congregation made up mostly of local residents who worship regularly at the Newman Center.
3. This plan is subject to revision based on current information and guidelines from local health authorities, the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Dioceses of San Diego, and the projected increase in congregation size when students return to the university.
4. All components of this plan will be shared with parishioners via email (weekly Newman News), on our website, and on social media.
5. We currently have two Sunday liturgies, at 12:30 pm and at 6:30 pm. We will consider adding a Saturday evening vigil Mass based on necessity.
6. The 12:10 daily Mass will be celebrated in the main church, to facilitate social distancing.
7. All Sundays Masses will be concurrently live streamed online so that parishioners who decide to stay home for health concerns may continue to worship with the community.
8. All gatherings before and after Mass have been cancelled until further notice.

9. Recruit and train an adequate number of new ushers and ministers of hospitality.
10. Recruit a number of tech savvy volunteers to teach parishioners to use Zoom or other media that might be used for streaming Masses.

GENERAL HYGIENE

1. Facemasks will be required for all, age two and above. All parishioners will be asked to supply their own. Subject to availability, we will have a supply of disposable facemasks (or bandanas or something similar) to provide for those who arrive without one.
2. Subject to availability, hand sanitizer stations will be at every entrance door to the church, on the credence table for the priest and ministers use, and in the restrooms, and in various sacristies. Parishioners will also be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.
3. Cleaning the church:
 - a. The church will be thoroughly cleaned before the first use.
 - b. Ideally, we will be able to spray down the pews with disinfectant between Masses.
 - c. We will check to make sure that the ventilation systems of the church and of the hall are working properly, are professionally maintained, and recently inspected.
 - d. Weather permitting, windows and/or doors to both the church and the hall will remain open to provide fresh air during and between liturgies, and to prevent people from touching doors.
 - e. All holy water fonts will be empty.
 - f. The water fountains will be disconnected.
 - g. Pews will be cleared of missalettes, hymnals, worship aids, offertory envelopes, etc.
4. How do we regulate use of and access to bathrooms during Mass? Should there be an usher in the hall to direct bathroom traffic?
5. We will maintain an on-going procurement program for safety and cleaning supplies. We will also encourage parishioners to donate and/or help us obtain masks, hand sanitizer, and other cleaning supplies that are currently in short supply.

LOGISTICS

1. The church has a semi-circular worship space, with the congregation divided into six sections, and a separate area usually reserved for the choir. There are 5 distinct entrances into the church and each of them will be used to access the particular section closest to that entrance. (We normally only use the main entrance.).
2. We are currently working on an algorithm to determine how many people the church can hold given the following guidelines:
 - a. Use every other pew.
 - b. Parishioners who belong to the same household may sit together in the same pew.
 - c. There will be six feet between people or household groups occupying the same pew.
3. We will institute a reservation system.
 - a. Parishioners will use a link on our website to indicate by Thursday evening which Mass they plan to attend and how many people from their household will be joining them.
 - b. The same algorithm mentioned above will then be used to assign seats in the church, with the goal of making the most efficient and safest use of the space.
 - c. Parishioners will be informed by Saturday noon regarding what section they have been assigned, and what entrance they should use.
 - d. Ushers will meet people as they enter the church and show them to their assigned section, pew, and place in the pew. Ushers will be wearing facemasks and gloves.
 - e. Pews will be marked to show the space that each person should occupy.
 - f. A reservation system also facilitates possible contact tracing of infection.
4. If necessary, we will use the church hall for overflow (if we have too many reservations) or for those who come to Mass without a reservation, assuming there is no room in the church.
 - a. Mass celebrated in the church will be streamed to the large screen in the hall.
 - b. The hall will be set up following the same principles outlined above:
 - i. Maintaining 6 feet between rows
 - ii. Maintaining 6 feet between parishioners/households occupying the same row.
 - iii. There are three entrances to the hall. The two side entrances will be used for those who have reservations, while the main entrance will be used for walk-ins.
 - iv. Ushers will meet parishioners at the entrances and show them to assigned seats.

5. The daily Mass chapel, which is used as a crying room, will be closed during Sunday liturgies.
6. Appropriate signage will be posted as needed around the campus. These signs will remind parishioners to wear masks, have information regarding the usher system, have entrance and exit directions, remind anyone with symptoms to please go home, etc.

DURING THE MASS

1. The distribution of the Eucharist will be changed to prioritize hygiene and health.
 - a. The reception of the Precious Blood will be suspended.
 - b. Communion will be distributed solely on the hand, and in a manner to avoid any skin-to-skin touching.
 - c. The reception of Communion will take place after the final blessing to limit movement in the church, so that people can leave after receiving the Eucharist.
 - i. Each section of the church will exit through the assigned doors.
 - ii. Eucharistic ministers will be at the exits, and distribute communion to parishioners as they exit (and hopefully head straight to their cars).
 - iii. Ushers will direct the exit of parishioners, by pew and by section.
 - iv. Markings will be placed on the floor to help people maintain a 6-foot distance from one another as they approach the communion minister on their way out of the church.
 - v. Spouses and immediate family members may bring a pyx to take Holy Communion to those staying in their home.
2. Choirs will be suspended. Music will be provided by a cantor and an accompanist. Parishioners will be asked not to sing during the Mass.
3. The presider will not generally wear a mask and will be alone at presidential chair and the altar.
 - a. There will be an individual paten and chalice for the priest.
 - b. Separate ciboria for the community shall be placed on the edge of the altar and covered.
 - c. Priests and ministers who distribute communion will wear a mask to do so.
 - d. Lectors and servers will wear masks, but lectors will remove them when they are reading.
4. The procession of the gifts of bread and wine is suspended for all Masses.

5. Holding of hands for the Lord's Prayer is prohibited.
6. A modified Sign of Peace, with a nod or slight bow, will be instituted.
7. Secure boxes will be stationed near the entrances of the church, to receive parishioners' contributions. Parishioners will also be reminded of online giving options.