

Eureka Mass Guidelines during the COVID 19 Pandemic

Important! Please read all of the following guidelines before attending any service at Saint Bernard/ St Joseph/ Sacred Heart Churches during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Attendance at any Catholic religious service in Eureka assumes acceptance of these guidelines. This includes Masses and any other devotional activity.

All Saint Bernard/ Sacred Heart parishioners are required to follow all Federal, State and County regulations regarding the health and well being of our communities at all times on church grounds. Non-compliance will be grounds for immediate removal from premises for the safety of our communities.

Guidelines for all Eureka Catholic Churches:

- 1) The dispensation to not attend Sunday Mass from Bishop Vasa remains in effect despite the opening of churches, and will remain in effect until he rescinds it. *This means you currently have no obligation to attend Mass at the church.* Masses will be available online via parish websites, and you are welcome to spend time with the Lord at home should you have any misgivings about attending at the church at this time.
- 2) In lieu of Sunday Mass, weekday Masses are available if you would like to avoid the crowd and still receive our Lord in communion.
- 3) If you feel ill in any way, we politely require you to remain home for Mass. See the guide below for symptoms related to COVID 19.
- 4) As per the directions from State and County officials, we are required to limit the capacity of the churches to 25%. Because of this we will need to make arrangements in the church and seating will be carefully managed. Directions given by volunteers must be followed.
- 5) With limited seats available, you will need to sign up to attend Mass with the church office. Please remember when signing up to include all those who will be coming with you and be prepared to leave a phone number.
- 6) Social distancing will remain in effect in all church buildings. A minimum of six feet is required between all family units at all times. Family units are members of the same physical household.
- 7) Face masks are required inside church buildings. This covering needs to cover your **nose and mouth** when in the building or around others. The State guideline does not require facial masks for those under 12 years old or those with breathing disorders, but they are still highly encouraged if possible.
- 8) Before attending services, please take the temperature of all family members. If any are running a fever, please remain at home and do not attend Mass. Wash your hands before coming to Mass.
- 9) Upon entering churches, please use hand sanitizer. If you have your own personal sanitizer, that is appropriate.
- 10) Children (and adults too!) need to stay with their own household at all times.

Could I have COVID 19?

Please do not attend services at Saint Bernard's, St. Joseph's or Sacred Heart if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Some alterations to our liturgical practices are in effect until further notice:

- 1) Please arrive early to check in to Mass and be seated. 6 foot distances will be taped off from the door. Please keep 6 feet between you and others for the duration of the service.
- 2) Please follow directions taped on the floor, and sit in marked locations only.
- 3) You are welcome to join in the rosary before Mass while you wait for Mass to begin.
- 4) There will be no hymnals provided in churches. If you have your own, you are welcome to bring it.
- 5) Collection will be at exits to church. No hand to hand baskets will be used. We appreciate your monetary donation to assist with our ongoing expenses at this time.
- 6) Communion will be distributed after the final blessing, and we are only allowed to distribute the Lord in the hand. No precious Blood will be distributed. After receiving communion, please go directly to your vehicle.

To sign up for Mass:

Please contact the church office to sign up for Mass. Under current county guidelines, our seats are limited to 65 for Sacred Heart, 70 for Saint Bernard's, and 25 for Saint Joseph's. While we wish we could have everyone back at once, we must obey this regulation, and so signing up for your seat is required. Please remember the church office is closed Saturdays, so please call in by Friday.

We are guaranteed to be closely monitored by the State and County authorities. It prides us all to know that we are, as the Catholic Community of Eureka, compliant in every way with law and the good will of governmental authorities. Please do everything in your power to help us keep this good reputation at all times.