



Welcome to

SAINT AGNES PARISH

Parishioner Guidelines for Attending Mass During the COVID-19 Pandemic



General Safety Protocols

1. All the faithful in the Archdiocese of San Francisco are dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. Although the faithful are dispensed from their obligation to attend Mass, they must observe the Lord's Day and are encouraged to spend time in prayer on Sunday (such as following a livestream Mass or participating in a spiritual or corporal act of mercy). This also applies to Holy Days of Obligation.
2. **We strongly encourage that St. Agnes Parishioners who are at higher risk of COVID-19 (e.g., those who are older or who have underlying health condition) stay at home.**
3. **Before coming to Mass, please review this [COVID-19 Health Screening Form](#) provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH).**
4. In charity and in consideration of public health and safety, **those attending Mass in person must wear a face mask.** Please bring your own face mask and make sure it has been sanitized. You must wear your face mask before entering the church.
5. You may wear gloves during the Mass. However, you will have to remove them before receiving Holy Communion.
6. Please sanitize or wash your hands before and after the Mass. Hand sanitizers will be available at designated locations inside the church. In addition, the kitchenette in the hospitality area will serve as a hand washing station.
7. **Please observe the 6-ft social distancing rule from your arrival, during the Mass and through your departure.**

Reserving Your Spot before Attending Mass

1. The following Liturgies will be held inside the church and will be open for parishioners to attend:
 - a. Weekday 8:30 am (Monday through Friday)
 - b. Saturday Vigil, 4:00 pm
 - c. Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am (live-stream) and 1:30 pm (Spanish)



2. Due to the social distancing guidelines, we need to limit and control the number of people in the church attending Mass. For this purpose, we will use a sign-up or reservation system. The link to the reservation system is available on the St. Agnes website (www.saintagnessf.org). Although the SFDPH is allowing a maximum of 25% of capacity or 100 people (whichever is less), we will start with 50 people. After fine-tuning our procedures to maintain health and safety protocols, we'll increase the number of people allowed accordingly.
3. Parishioners with no access to a computer will be able to call the rectory in order to sign up for a Mass.
4. For couples and families, only one person needs to make the reservation. However, you must indicate the number of people in your party and provide their names. This will ensure a more accurate count of the people inside the church.

Guidelines for the Worship Space

1. **Church Entrance/Exit.** Entry to and exit from the church will be limited to the side entrance between the church and rectory. There will be signs indicating the entrance to the church. The ground leading to the entrance will have markers that are 6 feet apart, so you know where to stand if a queue forms. A Line Manager will be available to assist and monitor the queue, and to ensure everybody is wearing a face mask.
2. **Check-In and Temperature Check**
 - a. Right before the side entrance, an Usher will check you in, ask you the screening questions ([COVID-19 Health Screening Form](#)) and take your temperature. Only parishioners with reservations will be allowed in the church.
 - b. We will use a non-contact infrared thermometer to measure your temperature by pointing it to your forehead. If you or somebody in your party has a temperature of 100° F or higher, you will be asked to return home immediately.



- c. There will be no weekly bulletins, worship aids and music sheets. These are available online.
- d. For the weekday Masses, we will post the COVID-19 Health Screening Form at the church entrance so that parishioners can read the questions and self-screen themselves. The first person who arrives (or some other parishioner) will be asked to take the temperature of the parishioners as they arrive.

3. Seating Arrangements

- a. Please wait for an usher to show you to your pew. We will make every effort to accommodate your preferences and needs, but in the interest of time we may need to hasten the seating process so that the usher can assist other parishioners waiting to be seated as well. Thank you in advance for your understanding.
- b. In order to maintain the 6 feet social distancing rule, every other pew has been cordoned off and we will limit the number of people sitting on a pew. Couples and families can sit together. They do not need to practice physical distancing. The usher will decide if an individual or couple can sit in the same pew that the family is at and still maintain the 6 feet distance.
- c. We ask that you sit towards one end of the pew to maintain 6 feet with the other person sitting on the same pew.
- d. We recommend that young children remain with their parent(s) at all times, and not play with children of other families.
- e. For the weekday Masses, we ask that parishioners seat themselves following the guidelines above, i.e., maximum two people per pew sitting at least 6 feet apart, sit only on pews that are not cordoned off, etc.

4. During the Mass

- a. Please minimize the surfaces you touch.
- b. There will be no congregational singing.
- c. During the Preparation of the Gifts, we will not be going down the aisles to take up the collection. Instead, please drop off your envelopes or donations into the collection baskets as you enter the



Hospitality area, or as you exit the church. The Offertory procession (i.e., bringing up the offerings) will be omitted.

- d. We will suspend holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- e. During the Sign of Peace, we will only gesture to one another without direct contact with the other person.

5. Restroom Use

- a. The floor leading to the restrooms will have markers that are 6 feet apart, so you know where to stand if a queue forms.
- b. Only one person at a time, or one parent and child are allowed in the restroom.

6. Receiving Communion

- a. Before the Mass or at some appropriate point, the priest will announce that communion will be distributed after the conclusion of Mass, i.e., immediately after the dismissal.
- b. The priest and/or eucharistic minister (EM) will wear a face mask while distributing, which would not be appropriate within the context of the Mass. It will also allow for further safety precautions which could not be observed within the context of the Mass.
- c. Please wait for the ushers to assist you to come forward pew by pew. The floor leading to the priest or EM will have markers that are 6 feet apart.
- d. Please make sure you are wearing your face mask while in the communion line. If you are wearing gloves, please remove them. You cannot receive the host while wearing gloves.
- e. Communion for the Cup is suspended.
- f. We will suspend giving communion on the tongue. We will only distribute communion in the hand. Once you receive the host, please move to the side, use one hand to remove your mask and the other hand to consume the host. Then place back your mask and proceed to the exit.
- g. For weekday Masses, since there are only a few parishioners in attendance, Communion may be given during the usual part of the Mass.

7. Elevator Use



- a. Only use the garage elevator if you are unable to take the stairs.
- b. Only two passengers at a time are allowed in the elevator. Both passengers must stand at opposite corners inside the elevator.

St. Agnes COVID-19 Prevention Policies

1. St. Agnes will disinfect the church before reopening. After which, St. Agnes staff will sanitize high-touch surfaces (e.g. pews, door knobs and handles, bathrooms, elevator, etc.) after each Mass.
2. St. Agnes priests, staff, volunteers and any visiting priests will be trained on the following:
 - a. How to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting the virus. Perform self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using CDC guidelines.
 - b. The importance of frequent handwashing with soap and water, including scrubbing with soap for 20 seconds (or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol when staff cannot get to a sink or handwashing station, per CDC guidelines).
 - c. The importance of physical distancing, both at work and off work time.
 - d. Proper use of face coverings.
3. All staff and volunteers will be provided with the necessary PPE (e.g., face masks and gloves) while performing their duties.
4. We will post signs at designated areas alerting people to the safety protocols to be observed, including floor markings for the 6 feet social distancing.