

# St. Mary Church

P O Box 67, Ireland, Indiana 47545 • Phone 812-482-7041

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## **PUBLIC MASSES RETURN TO ST. MARY CHURCH, IRELAND**

*Doors will be opened 30 minutes before scheduled Mass time. This is to allow for the required cleaning/disinfection process between Masses.*

### **Weekday Mass Schedule – Begins May 19**

Monday - No Mass  
Tuesday at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday-Friday at 7:30 am

\*When there is a funeral, there is **no** weekday morning scheduled Mass.

### **Weekend Mass begins May 23 and 24, 2020**

Saturday Vigil at 4:30 pm  
Sunday at 7:00 am and 10:00 am

**YOU SHOULD STAY HOME if you are an Individual 65 and over,  
as well as those of any age in high risk categories:**

Per the CDC, “at-risk” health conditions include but are not limited to: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy. -*Catholic Diocese of Evansville, May 7, 2020*

**Bishop Siegel has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass  
on Sundays and Holy Days until at least August 15, 2020.**

**As a result, nobody should return to Mass if they are not comfortable doing so.**

**A MASK IS REQUIRED AT MASS:** Everyone age 7 or older, attending Mass at St. Mary is strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

**CHURCH ENTRANCE:** You should enter the church at the main entrance door. All side doors will be locked. Families living in the same home are exempt from the 6-foot distance requirement. Families/individuals will be greeted at the door and directed to a specific seat until capacity has been met. The Choir Loft and Chapel/cry room will be closed!

**MAXIMUM CAPACITY:** With social distancing guidelines our capacity is very limited. All attendees are required to be seated. We will only be able to seat around 60 people. Mass will not begin until everyone is seated. We will not be able to admit you for scheduled Masses if we have reached capacity.

**PERSONAL SANITIZER:** You are asked to bring your personal hand sanitizer. We suggest you use it once seated, prior to communion, immediately after communion, and once you return to your vehicle.

**COMMUNION:** You are to leave your mask in place as you approach for communion. We request all distributions be in your hand. To receive you should make a cup with your hands, the minister will then gently drop the host into your cupped hand. You lower your mask, consume the host and raise your mask before returning to your pew. You will not be able to use a Pyx (vessel used to take Communion to the homebound) at this time, therefore Communion is not available to be taken to those unable to attend Mass.

\*Faithful are not obligated to receive Holy Communion, they could make a “spiritual communion”, and then receive at a later date when they are more comfortable.

**COLLECTION/TITHE:** Your support of St. Mary Church and our many ministries is still needed. There will be a basket at the entry/exit for you to drop your contribution/envelope in. If recent conditions have made it impossible to contribute, we understand. If you have been blessed with consistent income, we ask that you consider increasing your usual gift to help offset the deficit.

**DISMISSAL:** Will be by pew and at the direction of the usher. Out of respect and courtesy for all attending you are not to leave Mass prior to dismissal. Bulletins will be available at the door upon exit.

Private prayer following Mass will not be possible so we may begin cleaning and sanitizing the building for the next scheduled Mass.

- The Sign of Peace continues to be omitted.
- Communion from the Chalice remains suspended.
- There are to be no social gathering before or after Mass, inside or outside.
- The Ushers will not take up a collection. (Baskets will be placed at entry/exit).
- The Gifts will not be carried forward.
- There will not be a choir at any Mass.
- There will be no Missalettes/Hymnals available.

The health of our St. Mary Family is our highest priority. The guidelines have been compiled with input and direction from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, DD STL, Matt Miller (Director, Office of Worship, Diocese of Evansville), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Governor Holcomb (State of Indiana), and the Dubois County Health Department.

If we are going to error, it will be on the side of caution. We ask you to respect and protect those that you encounter at Mass and on the St. Mary Parish. There will be challenges and frustration as we work through the framework provided for your protection, now and in the future - we ask for your understanding, support, and prayers. Above all, please use common sense when coming to Mass. God bless you.

We, the Staff of St. Mary miss you.

Fr. Joseph E. Erbacher, “Effie”  
Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Ireland

May 15, 2020