



We are glad to welcome you back into the Church. Following Bishop Vásquez's guidelines and Texas's new regulations for Churches, we are making some temporary changes during liturgical celebrations at St. Helen.

Please know that our priority is the safety and wellbeing of our parishioners, volunteers, and employees. Our Facilities team has completely sanitized the church and has been working diligently to provide a safe environment for your return. The entire church will also be sanitized after each liturgical celebration. Volunteers and employees have been trained to ensure proper social distancing and sanitation practices in the church.

We strongly encourage the at-risk population to watch our liturgical celebrations remotely. Also, if for any reason you feel safer staying at home, remember that our bishop has granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. All our Masses are being live-streamed and are accessible via our Church website.

The Mass schedule in the Church, which starts Sunday, September 6th 2020 is:

† Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
† Sunday	7:30 am (Spanish)
	9:30 am
	11:30 am
	1:30 pm (Spanish)
	6:30 pm
† Mon. – Fri.	12:05 pm
† Wednesday	6:30 pm (Spanish)

To ensure the safety of everyone attending liturgical celebrations in person, please see below.

1. The church can only be occupied at 25% capacity per Texas guidelines. Once we reach that capacity, hospitality ministers will notify you. If we reach capacity at our Sunday 9:30am, 11:30am, or 1:30pm Masses, please proceed to Frizelle Hall for an overflow livestreamed Mass.
2. Outside and inside the church, we all need to comply with social distancing guidelines by maintaining at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals not in the same family household.
3. Only the East and West church entrances will be open for entry at the start of Masses.
4. Please practice good health practices. We have stations to sanitize your hands at the door entries. Face masks are required for anyone age 10 and older to enter and exit the church and when 6 feet of distance can not be maintained.
5. Only sit in unmarked areas; pews have been blocked in order to maintain social distancing. Please follow the directions of our hospitality ministers who will direct you to a seat.
6. Two or more members of the same household can sit together. One person attending by themselves must sit maintaining social distancing from others.
7. If you need to use the restroom or exit your pew during the celebration, please alert the people seated in your pew so that they can step out to the aisle and do the same when you return.
8. For everyone's safety, all books and missalettes have been removed from the pews. Feel free to follow the Mass readings on your silenced cell phones.
9. We will be reciting together the Mass parts such as the "Gloria," "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "Lamb of God," . However, our choirs will continue to sing the hymns, the responsorial psalm, and the Alleluia during the Mass, allowing us to attentively listen during these parts of the Mass, where the music will help us to focus our hearts on God as well.
10. The calming room is closed. If you have a child that becomes restless during the Mass, please exit the church via the east or west entrance and calm your child outside of the church. When you are ready to return, please rejoin us.
11. For the collection, the hospitality ministers will be holding a basket for you to drop your donation into at the end of Mass. Please have your money/envelope ready at that time.
12. To receive Holy Communion, please proceed slowly and remain at the socially designated marks on the ground in the aisles of the church. The center aisle will only have one line, instead of the normal two. Please follow the directions from the hospitality ministers.
13. Receiving Holy Communion in the hand remains the expectation. However, receiving on the tongue, while not recommended, will not be denied in accordance with canon law. Due to social distancing, we will require everyone to stand and proceed through the communion line. You will not be able to remain seated in your pew. If you do not plan on receiving communion, simply place your hands over your chest, indicating that you would just like a blessing. If you have special needs and are not able to stand, please indicate this to our hospitality ministers upon your entry. They will seat you in a special section of the church and communion will be brought to you after everyone else has received.
14. To exit the church at the end of Mass, we ask that you remain in your pew as the church is dismissed one row at a time by the direction of our Hospitality Ministers. Once outside the church, remember to keep your social distancing while walking to your car. If you desire to make an after-Communion prayer, please do this when you reach your car.

As the guidelines change, we will modify our standards to comply with all requirements to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your cooperation. It's great to have you back!