

Common Questions

Q. Why not have all Masses in the Church instead of the Hall?

A. Due to regulations regarding social distancing, use of air conditioning, proper ventilation, and sanitizing of the space we have decided it most prudent to celebrate primarily in the hall while continuing to live stream from the church for those unable to join us in person. Our church becomes very hot when we are unable to use the AC during the summer and there is inadequate ventilation given the large size of the church with few doors on the perimeter and no opening windows. In the Hall there is a projector readily available for displaying worship aids which will save printing and discarding additional papers for each service per new COVID-19 guidelines. We also spent around \$85,000 just last winter to have the pews refinished and, in talking with the restoration company, we were told frequent use of the recommended disinfectants would remove the finish, causing damage. The health and safety of our community comes first and, at the same time, we want to remain good stewards of the generosity of this Parish Family. With all that considered, the Parish Hall makes the most sense until restrictions are lifted and it is safe to return to the Church.

Q. Why do I need to reserve a ticket to attend Mass?

A. According to city and Church guidelines, gatherings may not exceed the lesser of 100 people or 25% the occupancy of the building. We have a large community here at St. Mary's and we want to ensure that everyone has a chance to attend Mass as well as limit the need to turn people away at the door should we reach occupancy at a given service. By utilizing Eventbrite to issue tickets, we will know in advance if a certain Mass time has reached capacity and if it hasn't, we'll know how many non-ticketed parishioners we can allow in without overcrowding.

Q. How do I get tickets for Mass?

A. Tickets can be reserved online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/st-mary-parish-30451174486> beginning Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and ending Fridays at 5:00 p.m. For those without internet access, reservations can be made by calling 916.452.0296 ext. 25. The link to purchase tickets online will be made available on the Parish Website, Parish App, and the St. Mary's Facebook page each week.

Q. What is Contact Tracing?

A. Contact Tracing is the act of finding out who you may have been in close proximity with in a given time period. This is particularly important as we seek to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic so we can isolate and help stop community spread of the disease. In the event of your infection, exposure (prior to Mass attendance), or quarantine related to COVID-19, Bishop Soto has asked that you contact St. Mary's to inform about the incident. Appropriate staff will confirm the details with you including what Mass day(s) and time(s) you attended so that we can alert fellow attendees of their possible exposure. For this purpose, Eventbrite - our ticketing system - is set up to collect the names and contact information for all those reserving Mass tickets. We, additionally, collect the same information for all those non-ticketed visitors who attend Mass each week. This information is maintained in a safe location and used only in the event we need to enact Contact Tracing protocols.