

# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

PROUDLY SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
& TUCSON COMMUNITY SINCE 1926



Our Mission: To be transformed through an encounter with the Spirit of Truth and the Love of God.

Our 2020-2021 Theme: "Fear is useless, what is needed is trust" -Mark 5:36

Newman Values: Building Community, Seeking Truth Together, Availability/A Space to Breathe, Formation of Faith, Cultivating Gifts & Forming Leaders, and Open Communication.

Principles for "Re-Opening" our Liturgies to the Public: Creating a Sacred Space where prayer and encounter is experienced; Hospitality from start to finish; the Health and Safety of all congregants is preserved as is reasonably possible; Patience and Good Will as an expectation that flows between students, faculty, staff, resident community, ministers and pastoral staff.

- The Current Sunday Mass Schedule (5): Saturday Vigil 5:15PM, Sunday 9AM, 11AM, 5PM and 7PM
  - **Modified Mass Schedule (7): Saturday Vigils 9AM, 3PM and 5:15PM, Sunday 9AM, 11AM, 5PM and 7PM – if needed, we will add another morning Mass on Saturday at 11AM.**
  - Weddings and other special liturgies will be reserved for 1PM on Saturdays
- Full Capacity of Church Pews: 250 people sitting in 38 pews – 19 per side
  - **Limit to ensure social distancing: 50 – 4 people sitting in 14 pews total, every two pews unavailable**
- Last Public Liturgy: March 15, 2020.
  - Proposed re-start: September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

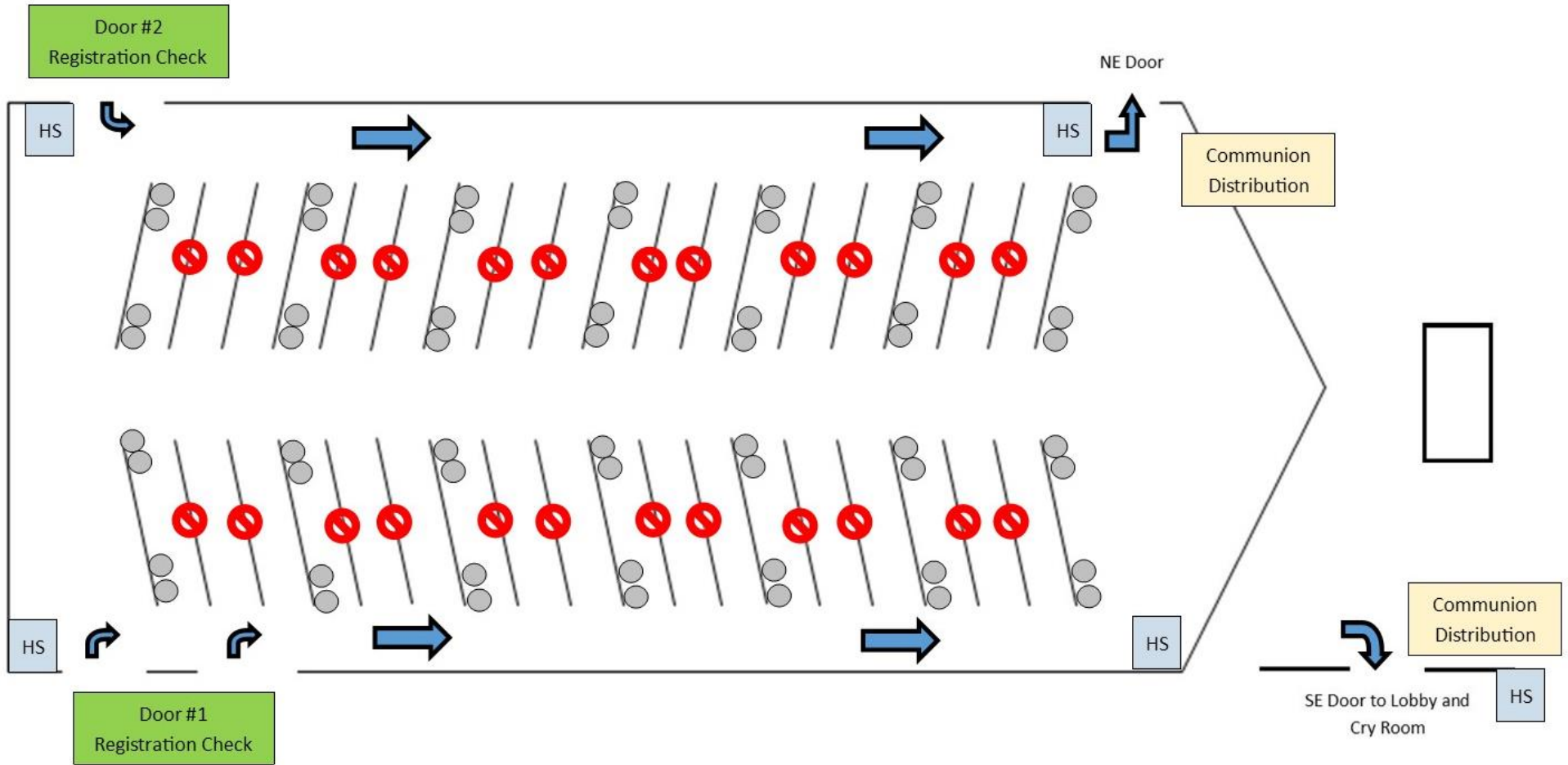
## **Guidelines for attending In-Person Masses, approved by the Diocese of Tucson on 8/29/2020:**

- The Sunday Mass Obligation has been suspended indefinitely for all persons living in or visiting the Diocese of Tucson. Those in vulnerable classifications such as those over 65+ or living with a chronic health condition are strongly urged to remain at home and join our Live-Stream Mass on Sundays at 11AM via UACatholic.org.
- Anyone not feeling well/exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 are to remain at home. We encourage you to reach out to staff for prayer and to share ways the community can still be supportive.

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- There is an inherent risk, regardless of age or health, in attending any public event. This includes religious services. While we are working to reduce the risk, there are no risk-free situations. A parishioner's presence at a public event constitutes his or her understanding and acceptance of this essential level of risk.
- A reservation to attend in-person Mass will be required and done through the UACatholic.org website. The window for reservations will be open until Fridays at Noon. A confirmation will be sent no later than 8PM on Friday if there is a spot available. Attendees must produce a hard copy or electronic version on their phone of the Reservation Confirmation Email upon arrival for Mass.
- Masks are required for all congregants over the age of six.
- Temperature checks will be done at the door using a no-touch infrared thermometer. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4 degrees, the CDC threshold for fever, will not be permitted to enter the church.
- Social Distancing of at least six feet must always be maintained.
- Family units may sit together in the open pews, otherwise congregants will be seated six feet apart.
- Entry to the church will be through the Northwest and Southwest Doors only. A Hospitality Minister will be stationed at each entrance to verify registration, give instructions for masks, seating, point out the Hand Sanitizer Stations that are available.
- The Cry Room will be restricted to one family unit.
- There will be no public access to the Lobby, Restrooms or Offices unless there is an emergency.
- Access to the Office will remain by appointment only. A Staff Member will be available after the 9AM and 11AM Sunday Masses outside near the Southwest Doors to answer any questions or field any requests.
- The Sacristy will be restricted to staff except for Eucharistic Ministers washing hands.
- Hymnals are removed from the pews and congregational singing is not encouraged. Liturgical music will be led by an accompanist and no more than two cantors who must maintain social-distancing and wear masks when not leading the music.
- Holding hands will not be permitted during the Our Father
- Physical touch will not be permitted during the exchange of the Sign of Peace.
- Baskets will not be passed during the Offertory collection. Offerings will be collected at the end of the liturgy as congregants exit the church with online giving encouraged to reduce exposures.
- Communion by Host will be distributed in the hand only. Hosts will be distributed at the end of the liturgy, after the Concluding Prayer and Dismissal, outside as people leave by the Northeast and Southeast Doors. Ushers will dismiss each pew individually to maintain social distancing. Congregation will be asked to use Hand Sanitizer Station prior to exiting. Eucharistic Ministers will use the Sacristy sink to thoroughly wash their hands prior to the distribution of Communion.
- All doors, pews, kneelers, prayer alcoves, choir area and ambo will be thoroughly disinfected after each Liturgy by volunteers with a staff member who will serve as captain along with a Student Minister or Transformation Team member.
- The 11AM Mass on Sunday will be livestreamed for those who choose to remain at home.
- Communion by Host, in the hand, will be made available on Sunday between 12:15PM and 12:45PM to those who attend the livestream Mass. Distribution will be near the Northwest Doors of the church with drivers entering the Newman Property via Warren Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, through the Newman Parking Lots, and moving westbound through the alley to the distribution station.

**St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center**  
**Modified Layout:**



HS: Hand Sanitizer Station  
Pews are 14 feet across