



Diocese of Peoria

## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### **Announcement regarding the reopening of St. Joseph Church for Confessions after COVID-19 pandemic**

Starting Saturday, May 23, 2020, St. Joseph will resume offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the faithful at the normal day and time of Saturdays at 3:30 pm. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and following the Diocese of Peoria's plan for reopening churches, please note the following changes will be implemented to ensure the safety of the faithful and priest confessor alike:

- All who enter the church must wear face masks throughout their time in the church
- Only 10 attendees will be in the church at any given time
- Confessions will be heard in a special area of the church -- namely the northwest vestibule -- not the normal confessional rooms
- Attendees will not sit in (or kneel in) the pews at any time
- Attendees will enter the church via the southwest door, off the parking lot between the church and school buildings
- Attendees will walk straight east along the wall containing the normal confessional rooms, turn north through the main vestibule of the church, then finally turn west along the Broadway wall where social-distancing markings on the carpet will show attendees where to stand while waiting for their turn for confession
- Attendees will not need to touch any doors when entering the room for confession and will stand during the sacrament's ritual
- After sacramental absolution, attendees will exit the confessional room and immediately walk south through the aisle along the sanctuary of the church, finally exiting the church through the door they entered originally -- please note this means that attendees will not say their penance in the church building

There will be a couple of greeters/ushers present to assist attendees through the process; we ask that all cooperate with this guide to facilitate the maximum amount of confessions to take place. We are sorry to announce that no attendees will be allowed into the church after 4:30 pm, since the church will need to be empty for the streamed celebration of the 5:00 pm Mass, per diocesan reopening guidelines. Any changes to this guide will be made known to parishioners accordingly.