**We hope these Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) will answer many of the questions/concerns you have about reopening St Francis de Sales for mass. We have put many safety precautions in place, per our directives from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Governor’s Office, regarding social distancing. It is critical that everyone follow the directions of our parking attendants and ushers so we can all stay safe as we reopen our parish. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we move forward!**

**Q: Is it a sin if I don’t attend mass when St Francis de Sales re-opens?**

**A:** No, Archbishop Lori has extended his dispensation of the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice

**Q: If I am not comfortable attending mass, can I watch it online?**

**A:** Yes, St Francis de Sales will continue to offer a livestream Mass on Saturday 5pm and Sunday at 8am, 10:30am, and 1pm Spanish. Through our website [www.stfrancisabingdon.org](http://www.stfrancisabingdon.org) and Flock notes, you can find multiple ways to view Mass every weekday and weekend.

**Q: Is St Francis de Sales open for Private Prayer?**

**A:** No, neither the Stone Chapel nor the Main Church will be available for private Prayer at this time.

**Q: What about baptisms, weddings, and funerals?**

A: Yes, they can be scheduled through the parish office.

**Q: What will St Francis de Sales do differently to ensure facilities are clean?**

**A:** All buildings on campus have been cleaned and disinfected per Archdiocese directives. The Main Church and Kilduff Hall will be sanitized after each mass, and will be cleaned/disinfected weekly.

**Q: Do I need to wear a mask while attending Mass, or visiting campus?**

**A:** Yes, Everyone **MUST** wear a mask in order to enter any building on campus (SFdS is unable to provide masks, please bring your own mask). Do not come on campus if you have been sick, you are in a household where someone is sick, you are feeling ill, or if you have a temperature.

**Q: What are the times of the daily and weekend masses?**

**A:** All masses will take place in the Main Church. Weekday masses are at 9am. Weekend masses on Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 1pm (Spanish); the entry doors will be opened 15 minutes before mass. The entrance doors will be closed either when capacity is reached, or when the mass has started. No one will be permitted to enter either the Main Church or Kilduff Hall once the mass has started.

**Q: Is there a restriction to the number of people who can attend Mass?**

**A:** Yes, The Main Church can accommodate 100 people that can safely worship inside the building, per social distancing requirements. Kilduff Hall can hold 56 people safely and will be used as an overflow location where you can watch the livestreamed mass and receive communion.

**Q: How will SFdS determine who can attend mass ?**

**A:** Entry to the Main Church will be on a first come first served basis until capacity (100 people) is reached. 56 additional seats will be available in Kilduff Hall where people can watch mass livestreamed and receive communion in Kilduff Hall.

**Q: How early can I arrive at SFdS for mass?**

**A:** Doors to the Main Church and Kilduff Hall will be opened 15 minutes prior to mass. You must wait in your car until the parking attendants instruct you to exit your vehicle. As you arrive on campus parking attendants will direct cars to the next available parking spot.

**Q: Can I save seats?**

**A**: No

**Q: What is SFdS doing to help maintain social distancing?**

**A:** You will notice social distancing markings inside and outside the Main Church and Kilduff Hall that will assist you in maintaining the required 6-foot distance. Additionally, we will have designated entrance only and exit only doors for both the Main Church and Kilduff Hall. The wooden doors on the side of Main Church will serve as an entrance only door and the double glass doors facing the gazebo will serve as an exit only door. Kilduff Hall glass doors will serve as an entrance only door and the side glass door facing KC Hall will serve as an exit only door. Both entrances only and exit only doors will be propped open as you arrive and depart. No one will be permitted to enter either the Main Church or Kilduff Hall once the mass has started.

**Q: What changes will I notice in the Main Church?**

**A:** Changes in Narthex include the addition of hand sanitizer stations, removal of chairs in Narthex, and the Holy Water font and baptismal font will be emptied and closed. Changes in the Sanctuary include the removal all hymnals for the duration of this pandemic and ushers will direct you to your seat. It is critical that everyone follow the direction of the ushers. Also, only 2 bathrooms will be available for use. We recommend parishioners abstain from using bathrooms as much as possible. If usage is necessary, you MUST wash your hands before exiting bathroom. You will also notice markings on the hallway floor in order to maintain a 6-foot distance if waiting to use the restroom.

**Q: What changes will I notice in Kilduff Hall?**

**A:** Changes in Kilduff Hall include the addition of Hand Sanitizer stations which we encourage you to use, and an usher will be directing you to a seat. It is critical that everyone follow the direction of the ushers. Only 1 person at a time will be allowed in the Women’s and Men’s bathrooms and we recommend parishioners abstain from using bathrooms as much as possible. If usage is necessary, you MUST wash your hands before exiting bathroom. You will also notice markings on the hallway floor in order to maintain a 6-foot distance if waiting to use the restroom.

**Q: Will there be music at mass?**

**A:** Yes, Music will only consist of an accompanist and a cantor. Based on scientific research and the recommendations of several health organizations, congregational singing is **suspended** at this time. Singing creates a much greater risk of spreading virus than speaking.

**Q: Are there any changes to the flow of the mass?**

**A: Yes**

* The presider will not enter through the main aisle, but will enter from another area near the sanctuary.
* The procession of the gifts is suspended.
* Passing the collection baskets is suspended. All offertory should be placed in collection basket as you leave the mass. Please consider using Give Central: [**givecentral.org/location/488**](http://givecentral.org/location/488)
* Please refrain from holding hands during The Lord’s Prayer
* The physical sign of peace is omitted
* Communion will take place after the final blessing (to minimize movement of people in the sanctuary) and you should not return to your pew but exit the building immediately after communion.

**Q: How will Communion be distributed ?**

* We will have 2 communion stations. Please follow the direction of ushers for receiving communion and then exiting the building (Communion will take place after the final blessing)
* The most Precious Blood will not be distributed
* Members of the assembly who choose not to receive the Eucharist must enter the procession for either a blessing or in order to simply proceed to the exit.
* Members of assembly must wear facemask throughout mass, including when coming forward to receive communion. They can lower mask just prior to reception of the Eucharist.
* You may only receive communion in the hand only
* You may not wear gloves while receiving Holy Communion.

**Q: What can I do to help keep everyone safe?**

A:

* Minimize social gatherings before/after mass
* Exit the Main Church/Kilduff Hall immediately after mass so we can begin sanitizing
* Refrain from touching door handles or other surfaces
* Use hand sanitizer when entering or exiting the Main Church/Kilduff Hall
* Ensure you follow social distancing guidelines
* Help us to build a culture of awareness and responsibility when we come to campus

**Thank you again for your flexibility as we strive to keep everyone safe and healthy!**