

+ Maria

8 July 2020

Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our first celebration of the Feast of St. Elias at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, offering a solemn high Mass according to the ancient rite treasured for so many centuries by the Carmelite Order. We are honored and humbled to have so many who have given their support of this celebration of our father and leader in Carmel.

We are grateful that the reopening procedures in New York State as well as the directives from the Archdiocese of New York have made it possible for us to hold this event with members of the greater Carmelite family in attendance. However, in order to respect the public health directives in effect to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we have had to put an attendance cap on the total number of people who will be allowed inside the Shrine during Mass.

***At this time the total number of allotted slots for inside the Shrine for Mass has been filled. No further reservations for seating in the Shrine can be accepted, in order to maintain the social distancing needed to allow this event to happen safely. RSVPs already made through email and the EventBrite system will be honored. If more slots become available, we will post an announcement on the Facebook page for the event.***

For those who will be joining us inside the Shrine for Mass, we ask that you wear a mask at all times while inside and maintain social distancing from other household groups. We will be confirming reservations at the door to ensure that social distancing is maintained.

In order to allow for as many people as possible to participate safely in this event, we will be adding a drive in option for those who are unable to be accommodated within the Shrine. We will provide communion after Mass has concluded for those who are on site and would like to receive the Eucharist. For more information and procedures for our drive in option, please contact us at [carmeliteritesel@gmail.com](mailto:carmeliteritesel@gmail.com). Additionally, we will be livestreaming this Mass on Facebook as well as providing the booklet online for all those who would like to pray with us from a greater distance.

Also because of social distancing requirements, we are unable to hold a reception this year. However, in addition to communion after Mass for those who participate in our drive in option, we will be offering scapular investiture according to the traditional Latin formula as well as blessing of religious articles. Religious goods will be available for purchase on site at our gift shop both before and after Mass.

Thank you again for your understanding and your support, and especially your prayers as we prepare to celebrate this Mass. May God bless you and Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Elias watch over you always.