



Guidelines for Observing Social Distancing and other Health Requirements for the Celebration of Mass

GENERAL GUIDELINES/REMINDERS

- **Dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues until further notice.**
- **Parishioners who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to another with the virus should not come to church, in accordance with national, state and local health directives.**
 - Attendees should take their temperature at home before determining whether they should attend Mass.
- **Anyone over 60 years-old and those with underlying health complications are encouraged to participate in Masses *via live-stream only*.**

CLEANING, SANITIZING AND HYGIENE

- Appropriate cleaning of high-use areas within the church is completed before and after each service.

CAPACITY/ATTENDANCE

- Gathering of congregants where Mass is celebrated is *limited to* the following:
 - For churches of less than 10,000 sq. ft., the number of all those present at each Mass is limited to 25% or less of the fire or building code maximum occupancy.
 - For churches of 10,000 or more sq. ft., the number of all those present at each Mass is limited to 10% or less of the fire or building code maximum occupancy.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- **The faithful are obliged to wear a mask during the celebration of Mass, except for the brief moment of receiving Communion.**
- Ushers and other volunteers will wear masks and gloves (when gloves are not available, frequent handwashing will be necessary) throughout the celebration of Mass.
- Specific PPE practices are required for Eucharistic ministers. More details are included under “Holy Communion” below.

OFFERTORY

- **Stationary baskets** will be used for donations from the assembly and are to be monitored by the ushers until the donations are collected
- Collection baskets should not be passed, nor will ushers take up the collection from the congregation.
- **Please consider giving your offertory online.**

SIGN OF PEACE IS SUSPENDED



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HOLY COMMUNION

- **Communicants are to receive the Host in the hand** in keeping with the advice of state health officials and thereby to avoid the Communion minister's fingers coming into contact with saliva or particles exhaled from the communicants' mouth onto the ministers' fingers.
- **Communion ministers must be masked**, must sanitize their hands immediately before and after distributing Communion, and when at all possible, should utilize a disinfectant wipe or purificator dipped in a sanitizing solution (at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol) to sanitize their fingers when incidental contact is made with the communicant.
- **Distribution of Holy Communion from the chalice is prohibited to the assembly. For those who suffer from celiac disease, special arrangements are to be made with the pastor.**
- **When approaching the Communion minister, the communicant is to pull their mask below their chin in order to prepare to receive Communion as above. The communicant immediately replaces their mask after consuming the Host.**
- Ushers or other volunteers who are masked and gloved will ensure six-foot distancing in the Communion line.
- **Floor markings shall be placed six feet apart in the aisles in which the congregation approaches the sanctuary for Communion to facilitate proper social distancing.**
- Maintaining a **single-file** is necessary for the distribution of Holy Communion for each Communion minister and communicant to maintain social distancing. Multiple Communion ministers may be used as long as one-way traffic patterns are observed.