

**As we now transition into celebrating mass publicly, the following mandates must be observed in the spirit of care, concern, and charity.**

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN MASS**

- (1.) **LIMITED NUMBERS**—Due to the civil recommendations, the number of people who will be able to attend any given Mass will be greatly reduced. Ten (10) people are allowed to be in one room. In a bigger room, such as the main church, a divider may make it two rooms.
- (2.) **GENERAL DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION OF ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY LITURGY**—Has been granted by the Bishop until further notice. This means that those who are still unable to come to mass for whatever reason are “dispensed” from this obligation. Daily Masses will be celebrated (Tuesday to Friday) with 10 people per room at 9:00 a.m.
- (3.) **WEIGH THE RISK**—Anyone in a higher risk category, or showing any symptoms of illness, should stay at home. Recorded Masses, along with making a spiritual communion, will continue to be provided.
- (4.) **GERM MITIGATION**—Those who attend Mass should plan to wear a mask or cloth face covering, refrain from unnecessarily touching surfaces, respect social distancing, use hand sanitizer, follow directions for seating in the designated worship space, and observe other safety precautions as needed.
- (5.) **CHILDREN**—We want our children to attend these limited public Masses with their families. However, they are required to wear masks and must observe social distancing (families living together don’t need to social distance from each other).
- (6.) **TEMPORARY MASS TIMES RESCHEDULING AND/OR ADDITIONAL MASSES**—Because of the limited number of parishioners allowed to attend Mass, we added one more Mass on Saturday. We now have 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. masses on Saturdays. We eliminated the 4:00 p.m. mass to allow enough time to clean and disinfect the church, chapel, narthex and class rooms in between Masses. Sunday Masses remain at the same schedule of 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- (7.) **SCHEDULING MASS ATTENDEES**—Because of the limited number of parishioners allowed to go to mass, we will do the best we can to accommodate all parishioners. We have a team of “callers” who will contact you and determine the Mass you can attend and the number of family members attending. As soon as you are in the church, ushers will lead you or/and your family seated.
- (8.) **MANAGING PEOPLE FLOW**—Once inside the church, chapel, narthex, or classrooms, some of our pews are marked with “yellow thumbs up signs.” Those are the pews where you can sit. We rearranged the pews/chairs so that they are all 6 feet apart. With the exception of pews reserved for families with multiple members attending the Mass.
- (9.) **SANITIZING THE WORSHIP SPACE**—Following each Mass, the church, chapel, narthex, or classrooms will be sanitized and disinfected per CDC recommendations.

## **LITURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE CELEBRATION OF THE MASS**

**(1.) SOCIAL DISTANCE—In addition to the seating arrangements (families sit together and 6 feet away from the next person or the next family), we will also enforce the 6 feet distance when receiving communion. The floor will be marked 6 feet in between spaces leading up to where the communion is distributed.**

**(2.) THE LORD’S PRAYER—When praying the Our Father, we should not hold hands. Simply extend your hands toward heaven or fold your hands in prayer.**

**(3.) SIGN OF PEACE—Simply nod your head to those around you. Avoid any kinds of bodily contact.**

**(4.) SUNDAY COLLECTION—Centralized areas for Sunday Collection will be visible and pointed out before Mass for parishioners who wish to make a donation in person. This collection basket or baskets will not be passed from person to person.**

**(5.) HOLY WATER—Our angel statues bearing holy water will be put under quarantine until further notice.**

**(6.) MUSIC—It has been demonstrated that singing can increase the spread of the virus. Singing among the congregation is not encouraged at this time. Our accompanist and a cantor or two will provide music – and they must stay 12 feet from other music ministers.**

**(7.) MINISTERS—Will be kept at a minimum. We will give our altar servers a break during this pandemic – but they can resume their ministries once restrictions are lifted. One sacristan may continue to serve at any given Mass.**

**(8.) HYMNALS, MISSALS, PRAYER BOOKS—Hymnals/missals will be removed from our worship space. You may, however, bring your personal missals to Mass.**

## **CONSECRATING, RECEIVING & DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION**

1. Prior to the consecration of bread and wine, the priest must sanitize his hands so that he may handle the Blessed Sacrament with his bare hands. The priest must wear a mask or cloth face covering only during the distribution of Holy Communion. He must not distribute Holy Communion with gloves. Likewise, a glove-wearing communicant must remove his/her glove when receiving communion.
2. We will distribute Holy Communion at the conclusion of the Mass. Only the Sacred Bread is distributed at this time. The faithful should maintain the 6-foot social distancing from each other as they approach for Holy Communion. The priest/deacon must be careful to avoid body/hand contact during communion. If it happens, the immediate use of sanitizer is in order. After receiving, the faithful may then exit the church.