

I was *glad* when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the *Lord!*”

Psalm 122:1

We missed you and we are full of joy to be with you again!

-After prayerful and careful consideration of the guidelines and recommendations put forth by local government, health officials, and our Diocese, we are pleased to announce that we will slowly begin the process of returning to public worship at Good Shepherd. **The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still in effect and will be until further notice.** As you know, entering public spaces carries a greater risk during this pandemic. That is why those who are ill, elderly or have underlying health conditions are urged to stay home. Our Live Stream will remain available for all of the Masses except Daily Mass M-F 6:45am.

-There are new protocols that **all parishioners must follow to attend Mass.** These procedures will be re-evaluated and updated as time progresses. If you would like to attend Mass, please read through this message. Thank you so much for your patience and compliance.

CAPACITY

-Masses will be on a first come basis until seating capacity is reached.

-Vigil Mass for Seniors is reserved for “Seniors only”. With the exception of a caregiver who may accompany them.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

-Please wash your hands. ☺

-For ages 5 and up, face coverings are required on our campus and for the duration of Mass. For those arriving without a face covering you may listen to Mass outside the church.

-The nursery is closed.

-Bring your own hand sanitizer that can be used before receiving Holy Communion.

-Do not bring items that contain bleach into the church as this will damage the pews.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- Masks (for ages 5 and up) should be worn as soon as you exit your vehicle.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass. Social distancing of 6 ft. will need to be adhered to while lining up to enter the church.
- For the weekend Masses you will be seated by an usher in the church according to which door you enter.
- The church will be seated to fill the open pews from front to back. An usher will direct you to your seat.
- Please let the usher know if you need to sit on the end of a pew due to mobility or other concerns.
- Every two pews will be closed and not available. You may be sharing a pew with another household, but social distance is required between the households (6 feet).
- The holy water fonts remain empty.
- Please be aware that the church may reach capacity and we will not be able to seat everyone. The Mass will be available by live-stream in the community center for overflow seating. Communion will be distributed. If both the church and the community center are full you are invited to remain in the courtyard where you will be able to listen to the Mass. Communion will also be distributed in the courtyard. Social distancing guidelines will need to be followed. We encourage you to arrive early to Mass.

MASS PROCEDURES

- Masses will be conducted as you have seen on the Live Stream with reduced volunteer lay ministers. There will be no altar servers.
- Please keep your face mask on for the duration of Mass.
- We ask you to refrain from physical contact between different households at the Sign of Peace as well as hand-holding during the Lord's Prayer.
- Baskets will not be passed during the offertory. You will be able to place your weekly gift in a basket as you exit the church. We are so grateful and thankful for the effort you have made to share your offertory contribution during the pandemic.

COMMUNION PROCEDURES

- Per Bishop Wack's recommendation, Communion will be received in the hand. When receiving the Eucharist in the hand, the communicant rests one hand on the palm of the other. If one is right-handed, the left hand should rest upon the right to form a throne for the King, forming at the same time a Cross.
- We ask Parishioners to please remain in the pews for Communion. Ushers will invite each row to stand. The priest will distribute Communion in the hand one household at a time. Masks will remain on until the priest has moved to the next household (6 ft. away). After the priest has moved to the next household, lower your mask, consume the Eucharist, and then re-mask.
- Per Bishop Wack's recommendation, we are suspending the distribution of the Precious Blood during the pandemic.
- Use of personal hand sanitizer or hand wipes before Communion is strongly encouraged.

DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

- After the final blessing, please maintain social distancing from other parties as you depart the church.
- You can drop your weekly offertory in the baskets placed at the exits. Thank you!
- Clergy will not shake hands but will wave as you exit.
- We ask you to please not congregate outside, but go directly to your vehicles. We need to keep everyone moving in order to maintain the 6 ft. distance during departure.
- The parish office will not be open on the weekends, and the parish center will be locked.
- Please do not remove your masks until you have arrived at your car.

CHURCH CLEANING PROCEDURES

- We will continue to implement cleanliness and sanitation practices, including disinfecting pews between every Mass using cleaning products approved by the EPA.
 - Disinfecting of bathrooms, door handles, and other frequently touched surfaces will occur throughout the day.
- Anyone who attends public Mass will still be at risk.** Even with the best health practices and strict social distancing, anyone who enters a public space should be aware of the risk.

Thank you for your patience! 