

Guidelines for Returning to Sunday Mass

The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains in effect until further notice. For this reason, **those who wish to attend Sunday Eucharist and are unable to do so because of the limited access to the Church may choose to attend Mass another day.** Weekday Masses will be held in the Church at 9 AM. The chapel will be open Monday through Saturday, 9 AM – 1PM.

We want to keep everyone safe and healthy so we ask for your compliance with the following and we apologize for any inconvenience.

- We respectfully ask that parishioners wear their face coverings – this applies to children 2 years and older as well. The East Room will not be accessible.
- Parishioners will enter thru the center doors of the narthex only. All other doors will remain locked. An usher will be stationed by the accessible door to admit only those with limited mobility.
- Please follow pew restrictions. No more than 106 people will be permitted to enter the Church at any one time. This will be based on a first come, first served basis.
- For household members, in order to ensure you are able to attend and to sit together at Mass, please enter the Church together. We will only count persons as they enter and cannot offer a seat once our capacity is reached.
- Once the capacity for the Church has been reached people will not be permitted to enter and should consider another Mass or attend Mass via live stream/ television. (All Mass are live streamed and can be viewed on our website: stjoesmendham.org) After the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday (live stream only); Communion will available in the Church parking lot following the live streamed Mass until 10:15 AM).

- The temporary Mass schedule in the Church is as follows: Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 7:30 AM and 11:30 AM as to allow necessary sanitizing between each Mass.
- Everyone is asked to sanitize their hands before entering the church.
- Volunteers will count the number of people entering the church – being courteous to one another is important.
- During Communion, everyone will need to exit the row regardless of whether you are receiving Communion or not. This is to maintain social distancing and avoid contact with people who would otherwise need to pass by those remaining in the pew.
- Volunteers will guide the flow of those coming to communion - maintaining six feet between each person going up the aisle (main aisle only) single file, each person must sanitize their hands right before receiving the Eucharist in the hand.
- There will be a designated spot where the individual will de-mask and consume the host and then place his/her face covering on his/her face before returning to the pew.
- Since there will be no collection during Mass, baskets will be placed on tables by the doors where you can submit your weekly contribution.
- Use of restrooms should be limited to necessity only.
- Parishioners are asked not to congregate in the Church/Chapel or parking lot. Parishioners are asked to go to their cars and leave for home so as to create a continued healthy and safe environment of our parish campus.
- All hymnals have been removed from the Church and Chapel until all restrictions have been lifted.

- Those who are particularly vulnerable to the corona virus, i.e. those sixty (60) years of age and older, and especially those with one or several underlying medical conditions should follow Mass at home via live stream until all restrictions are removed.
- A person with a cough or fever of any kind should stay home to protect the health of others.
- Caregivers should not attend Mass in Church so as not to compromise anyone in your care.
- I thank you in advance for your cooperation as we are all in this together. We have to be concerned about each other – we will get through this with the help of God.