

Safety Guidelines for Resuming Public Weddings in Midst of Ongoing Pandemic ~ 6/15/2020

The COVID-19 health crisis continues to be very serious, and the risks associated with this virus will persist for some time. While resuming some semblance of social, religious and economic normalcy involves some risks, the Church desires to manage these risks prudently, so to create an environment that will minimize the adverse impact of the virus on society.

We have received guidelines from the Archdiocese regarding the gradual return to public Mass, baptisms, and devotions. It is important to note that our experience of the Mass will be different during this time. Adaptations specific for public weddings at Holy Trinity follow.

- **General Considerations:**
 - Except for those who live in the same house, individuals must **observe** a minimum of **six-foot spacing** from other individuals or household groups, **both inside and outside the church building.**
 - Our **seating capacity** has been greatly reduced due our adherence to the six-foot physical distancing measures. We can accommodate a **MAXIMUM OF 200 attendees** at Holy Trinity Weddings.
 - **Anyone with any kind of acute symptoms** - a fever, or recent exposure to an infected person - **should not attend religious services**, out of charity and concern for the welfare of others.
- **Everyone is expected to:**
 - **Wear a mask**, covering the mouth and nose, prior to entering the church until after leaving the church. **Exceptions made ONLY for Bride & Groom** (throughout the ceremony), and for family and wedding party **ONLY** during processional, recessional, and photographs before and after the ceremony. **Family and wedding party should wear masks throughout the ceremony.**
 - **Observe** the required **six-foot minimum distancing** inside and outside the church, **especially in the Lobby.**
 - **Use hand sanitizer** before entering the church nave, and try to **avoid touching surfaces** once inside the church.
 - **Avoid** shaking hands, hugging or other close contact with individuals who are not members of one's household.
- **Ushers are expected to:**
 - **Assist guests to their seats immediately after signing the guest book**, to assure proper distancing and avoid congregating in the Lobby.
 - **Release pews and guide Communion lines to maintain 6-foot distancing.**
 - **Usher those not being photographed out of the church** following the Recessional (to include wedding party and clergy **ONLY**), **beginning with the back rows. Guests should leave the building immediately, not congregate in the Lobby, and not return inside the building.**
- **During Wedding Ceremony (with or without Mass)**
 - The ceremony will be limited to 45 minutes to reduce exposure time between persons.
 - **At Communion, wait for the usher to release your pew, and stand six feet apart in the aisle.**
 - **In order to maintain seating order and avoid crossing over persons, we ask EVERYONE to please COME FORWARD in the Communion line** as directed by the ushers. Those not receiving the Eucharist may cross arms over chest and receive a prayer for Christian unity, or simply pass by the Communion minister and return to their pew.
 - If receiving the Sacred Host at a Mass, present your cupped hands to the Communion Minister, who will carefully drop the Host into your hands without skin-skin contact. Step to the side, open your mask from the bottom and receive the Host, reposition your mask and return to your seat.
 - Reception of Holy Communion from the chalice (except for the priest) continues to be prohibited.
 - **Music** should be minimal enough to meet the time parameters for Mass (45 min).
 - **Congregational and clergy singing** (including clergy--assembly dialogues, and clergy singing along with the cantor), **is suspended** until further notice.
 - Music ministry will be limited to a solo vocalist and accompanist.
 - 7/20/20 UDPATE: Until the current spike in Covid cases/hospitalizations recedes, assembly worship aids will not be used. Couples may request a limited number be printed as keepsakes for immediate family and/or wedding party.