

Dear Parishioner,

WELCOME BACK! We are delighted to resume the celebration of Sunday Mass at both the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Thomas More. The Cardinal has dispensed all Catholics from the obligation of Sunday mass attendance. So, if you feel uncomfortable about attending, please remain at home and join us in spirit by watching the streaming mass or simply by engaging in private prayer. Or, you might consider coming to a weekday mass where the numbers attending are much smaller. We are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our parishioners as well as of our priests celebrating Mass, all who are elderly and among the vulnerable population. The interior of the church has been professionally sanitized this week and will be sanitized between the masses. For this purpose we have hired additional staff.

We ask your cooperation in following the following procedures as they will contribute to the safe and efficient entrance, exit and movement within the church.

It would be advisable to arrive five or ten minutes before the scheduled time of the mass, and to line up outside the church, observing social distancing. At OLGC the line will form on the Second Avenue side of the church, at STM on the Park Avenue side.

Everyone, equipped with a mask, is asked to enter by the main door, where temperatures will be checked by a forehead scanner and masks will be provided for those without them. Anyone with a high temperature (100.4 degrees) or symptoms will not be permitted to enter the church. People with disabilities ONLY may use the elevator (OLGC) or the ramp (STM), but upon entering should then go to the usher at the main entrance to be included in the official count. People should take advantage of the hand sanitizers inside the entrance.

Spaces in the pews have been marked by separate color for singles, for couples and for families of three and four. We ask you to sit in the pew that matches your situation. This will allow for correct social distancing, as well as ensure the maximum seating capacity.

For the reception of Holy Communion we ask that people in the central body of the church, beginning with those in the front pews, approach first, using the middle aisle and return to their seats using the side aisles. AFTER all those have received Communion, at STM those in the side sections should approach by the side aisles and return to their seats by the center aisle and then walk back to their seats by the side aisles. At OLGC those in the side aisles and those in the center section separated by the wooden barrier in the center, should approach by the side aisles, walk to the front middle and then return to their seats by the middle aisle and then the side aisles. In all cases, social distancing should be followed.

At the end of Mass members of the congregation should exit starting from the rear of the church taking care not to crowd those in front or beside them. All stairways leading out can be used.

We realize these procedures will result in delays in entering and exiting the church. But we ask for your patience as we get accustomed to the "new abnormal." We will make adjustments as we go along seeing what works well and what doesn't.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation,  
Fr. Kevin Madigan