



PARTICULAR GUIDELINES FOR ST. MARY'S ABBEY CHURCH

*Based Upon Protocols for the Reopening of Churches to Public Liturgical Celebrations
in the Diocese of Paterson*

1. The dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Masses obligation remains in effect until further notice. 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 on another day.
2. Those who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, i.e. those 60 years of age and over, and especially those with one or more underlying medical conditions, are requested to follow Mass at home via live stream or television until all restrictions are removed.
3. We will continue to livestream Mass each day. Be extremely cautious to avoid the camera.
4. If you have a cough or fever of any kind, please stay home to protect the health of others.
5. Mass attendance must be limited to **25%** of the seating capacity of the abbey church or **150** people (*whichever is lower, per NJ regulations, 9/2/20*). All are asked to exercise extreme discretion about how many can attend Mass in the abbey church. This is to protect everyone's health, and to follow health and safety regulations.
6. Holy Water fonts and the baptismal font remain empty. When Baptism is celebrated, purified water will be blessed and be used once.
7. All attending the liturgy must wear a face mask. A small supply of disposable face masks may be available to the faithful for those who neglect to bring them. Kindly invest in a supply, however.
8. All people inside the church must practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet from other persons. People in the same household do not have to social distance, but must keep 6 feet from others.
9. The procession will enter and depart via the side aisle.
10. Lectors will sit in the nave with their family, and approach the ambo to proclaim the readings, after which he or she will return to their pew. He or she will recite the Responsorial Psalm as it appears in the *Lectionary*.

11. Singing will be greatly reduced. The cantor will sing the Alleluia, and lead the parts of the Mass, e.g., *Gloria*, Gospel Acclamation, etc. He or she *may* sing the Entrance and/or Communion Antiphon.
12. Daily Mass attendees will sit in the center sections of the nave, exercising social distancing. Kindly maintain 6 feet between you and other Mass attendees when queuing up for Communion.
13. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is not available for private prayer, due to its size.
14. Altar Servers *may* assist at the altar, but are required to wear masks and maintain social distancing.
15. The collection basket will be centrally located to receive offerings. Electronic giving is encouraged and available on the abbey website.
16. The Exchange of Peace is shared without human contact.
17. The priest will have a hand sanitizer near him during the distribution of Holy Communion. If, perchance, a communicant's saliva comes in contact with the priest, he should immediately stop and use the sanitizer.
18. Social distancing should be maintained when approaching to receive Holy Communion. Please allow six feet between each person in the line going to receive the Body of Christ (*N.B. the signage/floor markings*). The faithful should be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before the reception of Holy Communion.
19. The Body of Christ should be placed in the hands of the communicant. Anyone insisting on Communion on the tongue is to receive last.
20. The distribution of the Precious Blood from the chalice is discontinued for the foreseeable future. The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is received under either species.
21. To avoid crowding at the end of Mass, people are asked to depart in an orderly fashion. The monks will not be available to greet you indoors, but may do so outdoors, with mask and social distancing.
22. If you desire to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the confessional is not used. There should be a safe social distance between the priest and penitent in a public and yet appropriate space.

Fr. Edmund Seton, O.S.B.

Revised October 1, 2020