



# What to Expect When Public Masses Start to Resume at Holy Family.

With the current restrictions eased we are able to open our doors at 25% capacity, it is important for all of us to understand that things will not immediately “go back to normal.”

Starting on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, Public Masses will resume here at Holy Family.



While we have been working on the majority of the details, below are some things we all need to keep in mind:

- Social distancing will still be in place.** The six feet separation restriction will still be required. You will be asked to wear a face covering. It will need to be in place before you enter the building and remain on till you leave. (see section about receiving Holy Communion).
- For those with vulnerable health conditions,** If you are in a vulnerable category (i.e., older adult, 65 years and older; person who is immunocompromised), you may desire to remain home during the initial reopening. Anyone who is ill, or suspects he or she is ill, should refrain from participation in public activities, including Mass. In addition, anyone who arrives at the church and is exhibiting symptoms may be asked not to attend Mass out of an abundance of care and caution for others.
- Attendance at Mass will be limited.** Given the restrictions for any large **gatherings we will need to use a sign up system** to both monitor the number of attendees but also to be fair to those who may not be able to get in for Mass if we just open the doors on a first come first served basis. There will be a link on the parish webpage for registration. Please consider alternating your attendance so that everyone is given an opportunity to attend at least once per month.
- Mass will be held in the parish hall.** It was

determined that this space was better suited for social distancing and sanitation. Doors will be open to keep minimize the touching of door handles. Hymnals & Missalettes will not be used nor any other type of worship aid. Kneeling is also dispensed, you may stand/sit reverently. Those attending Mass will be asked to sanitize their seats after Mass with help of the usher and parish supplies.

- Music** - Most of the music will be instrumental as singing projects breath to greater distances.
- Reception of Holy Communion** – Please follow the directions of the Ushers for coming forward and be mindful of the 6’ distance of the person in front of you. Receiving in the hand is preferred. Masks are only to be lowered in order to place the host in your mouth.
- Dispensation from the Sunday and holy day obligation will remain,** due to the limited number of faithful who might be able to attend Mass we will continue to record Mass and post it on the sites we have used previously.
- Liturgical changes will remain in effect.** For those able to attend Mass, similar practices like those in March will remain in place, e.g., distribution of Holy Communion under one species, no exchanging of the sign of peace, no holy water fonts, etc.

Even though parishes will take all reasonable precautions, there will still exist the risk of infection for anyone who attends a public Mass as we move through the various phases of easing restrictions. No one should expect that they will be safer in church than in any other public space. **Also, the hall bathrooms will be closed to the public.**

Please keep in mind, we will all experience challenges and frustration as we navigate through these weeks and months ahead. Each parish, based on their local circumstances, may implement guidance from the Archdiocese in different ways.

Let us continue to keep those sick and afflicted with the COVID-19; those on the front-lines caring for the sick; those who have died as a result of the virus; and all of our fellow parishioners and parishes in our prayers in these days ahead.

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