

Pastor's Acknowledgement

I acknowledge receipt of Bishop LaValley's Phase I Guidelines for the Partial Re-opening of Churches and Public Worship. I certify that I will implement the Guidelines in St Francis, St Mary's
St Patrick's parish to allow us to offer public worship taking all appropriate precautions to protect parishioners and reduce the risk of infection or contamination.

Specifically, I have (check all that apply) complied with all recommendations related to:

- The numbers of persons who can attend public worship in our church
- encouraging at-risk population to stay home and participate remotely
- post signage to remind participants about precautions (hand hygiene, spacing, no congregating before or after Mass, masks to be worn in church, cover coughs and sneezes)
- Social distancing, including signs, floor tape, leave every other row empty
- Set up communion station tables (corporal, hand sanitizer)
- Distribution of communion pursuant to the options presented. AFTER MASS
- Encouraged high risk persons to remain home.
- provided for sanitization and disinfection of the worship space per health guidelines (regular cleaning, sanitizing frequently touched surfaces, clean restrooms, etc.)
- provided for disinfecting seats between services
- provided hand sanitizer at entrances

Dated: 1 June 2020

G. Thomas O'Leary
Pastor
Diocesan Bishop of Rochester: PLC

**St. Mary's of the Fort, St. Patrick's and St. Francis Parish Plan
for Public Worship and Reopening Church.**

At this point in time we are limited between 45-50 at St. Patrick's, 40-45 at St. Mary's, and 35-40 at St. Francis depending on family size at Mass due to the social distancing requirements. Health authorities recommend frequent hand hygiene, vigilant social distancing, and the use of face coverings in public.

Anyone feeling sick should remain at home, and anyone who has been in close contact with a COVID positive individual should self-quarantine for fourteen days.

Social distancing calls for avoiding close contact with persons outside of one's household. This generally means avoid being within six feet of others, especially if this proximity will last fifteen minutes or more. Certain necessary tasks (purchasing food, medications, working in an essential business) may require that we come closer than six feet from others. These momentary interactions present an acceptable risk, especially when other precautions are taken. Reception of the Sacraments is important for the faithful in the midst of a pandemic, so similar guidelines should apply. Given how the virus is thought to spread, this risk is lower for brief encounters than in cases of prolonged contact.

General Provisions:

1. A general dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in effect.

- All persons who are at risk should remain home for their own safety.
- While there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, we encourage all people to grow in their relationship with the Lord, keep holy the Lord's Day, and maintain contact with their parish by prayer and watching the Mass over the internet or on television. Opportunities to virtually participate in Mass are available at the following sites or links: Mass is recorded on YouTube and posted on our website, www.cfcatholics.com. It's also posted on our parishes Facebook pages. Mass can be found on our Diocesan website: www.rcdony.org
- When it may be safely done, opportunities for those unable to attend Mass in person to receive the Eucharist will be provided. Please call the office or Deacon Brian at 518.569.2295 and we will let you know if and when these opportunities may be available.

2. The symptoms of infection for COVID-19 include a fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of taste or smell, and unexplained body aches. Anyone with these symptoms should remain home and not come to church for any reason.

Screening and Hygiene:

1. Hand sanitizer has been placed at the entrances of the church. Everyone should perform hand hygiene when entering and exiting the Church.

2. The faithful, 2 years of age and over, must wear cloth coverings over their face in public, including when they come to Church.

3. We will clean and disinfect the Church in accord with the recommendations of the New York State Department of Health and CDC guidelines.

4. You are required to wear a mask, 2 years and older.

Limited Mass Attendance:

At this time Mass attendance is limited to between 45-50 at St. Patrick's, 40-45 at St. Mary's, and 35-45 at St. Francis depending on family size.

When attending Mass, participants must respect signage and markers placed to assure safe social distancing.

Our parishes will provide 2 masses at each Church, 3 anticipated and 3 Sunday masses. We will have parishioners call the parish office to reserve a time they will be attending mass and how many per family. Once we are at capacity for a mass they would be encouraged to sign up for a different mass.

Social Distancing:

- There will be signage and markings to help social distancing.
- The faithful should maintain at least a six-foot distance from others outside their household (pews will be taped off)
- Members of a single household do not need to practice social distancing.
- Areas where the faithful may stand in line will have tape on the floor to indicate proper distancing.

- Ushers will “direct traffic” to avoid congregating when the faithful arrive, move in or leave the church.
- Dismissal after Mass will be row by row and will be directed by the ushers.
- Once the available spaces are filled, ushers will not admit additional people to the church.
- There will be tape placed on the floor to indicate where to stand in line while maintaining social distancing. There also will be signs posted to remind people of hand hygiene.
- There will be no choirs at this time.

Specific Provisions for Parts of Mass: Instructions/Protocol for Celebrants and servers:

- A priest with symptoms of COVID-19 infection (fever of 100.4, cough, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of taste or smell, or unexplained body aches) or with a respiratory infection of any kind should refrain from celebrating public Mass. This rule applies to deacons, servers, lectors, sacristans, ushers, Eucharist ministers and others who serve at a Mass.
- Priest celebrants and other ministers will not wear gloves, and will not wear masks during Mass. They will remain more than six feet away from the congregation during Mass.
- To the extent possible, deacons, servers, lectors, Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should remain at least six feet from the priest and each other, except as provided below.
- The Roman Missal will be placed on the altar or on a stand at the chair, so a server does not have to hold the book during the prayers.
- Proper distances in the sacristy and during entrance and recessional processions must be maintained. Only those necessary should take part in a procession. The others can go to their place or leave separately.
- Offertory procession will be omitted.
- A deacon or server may bring the missal, chalice, paten/ciborium and cruets to the altar,

while the celebrant waits at the chair. (or the priest could do it himself) After the altar is set up, the deacon or server moves away, and the priest goes to the altar.

- The lavabo will be done by the priest alone, without assistance (either at the altar or at the credence table) (if the altar – server should remove lavabo items after).
- A basket for the collection will be placed near the doors of the church so offertory contributions can be placed as participants enter or exit the church. Baskets should not be passed from person to person.
- The celebrant's host should be placed alone on his paten. If hosts for others are to be consecrated, they should be placed separately toward the side of the altar (on a separate corporal) so the hosts are not in front of the priest as he speaks the Eucharistic prayer.
- The deacon may stand near the priest to elevate the chalice at "Through Him and with Him and In Him," since this section is brief.
- There will be no sign of peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion:

- At the start of Mass, or at another suitable time during Mass, the priest will explain that those desiring to receive Holy Communion will do so at the conclusion of mass. He will instruct them to come forward for Communion, respecting social distancing.

The route the faithful will follow will be explained by approaching in single file in the center aisle with the six feet social distancing between and they may exit the church immediately after receiving Holy Communion by using the side aisles.

- The cup will not be offered.
- The faithful will either remove face coverings prior to approaching for Communion, or immediately after receiving the host in their hand and moving six feet from the priest.
- The priest will perform hand hygiene after receiving Communion and prior to distributing communion. He may or may not wear a mask.

- The faithful will be instructed to receive communion in the hand.
- At the conclusion of the distribution of Holy Communion, the remaining hosts are placed in the tabernacle and then the priest performs hand hygiene with sanitizer.
- Mass concludes as normal.