



ST PETER THE FISHERMAN
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. MICHAEL - HOLY NAME OF JESUS - SACRED HEART - ST. TIMOTHY
CHERRYFIELD MACHIAS LUBEC CAMPOBELLO ISLAND

COVID-19 Protocol Plan for St Peter the Fisherman Parish

As of June 1, 2020

This Protocol Plan has been developed by the COVID-19 Protocol Compliance Committee of St Peter the Fisherman Parish in response to guidelines issued by the State of Maine Center for Disease Control and with the guidance provided by the Diocese of Portland.

The team has communicated the protocols to parishioners by information published on the church website and through email and phone calls. All parishioners will be requested to wear a mask while inside the church building. Disposable masks will be provided if parishioners do not bring their own masks.

Information will be communicated to parishioners upon arrival at the church in order to ensure safety protocols are followed. This information will include:

1. Encouraging proper 6-foot spacing while inside the building; this is facilitated by signage on the pews as well as spaces marked on the pews for where to sit. Individual spaces are marked on the pews indicating where individuals should sit. Should there be families with children present, the family will be allowed to sit in one pew. This will mean, however, that seating will be adjusted to allow for one empty pew in front of and behind the family. The maximum number allowed in the church will not be altered.
2. Encouraging the use of hand sanitizer; parishioners are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer or use the sanitizer provided at the entrance of each church.
3. Encouraging parishioners to sit in the marked areas on the pews and to avoid those areas that are not marked at areas to sit.

Because of the small number of people present in our small churches, the priest celebrant or his delegate will explain and describe traffic patterns to be followed during the distribution of Holy Communion in order to ensure physical distancing of 6 feet. In addition, parishioners may enter the building only through the indicated main entry door.

The parish will provide disinfecting supplies which will be used on all high-risk areas or where it has been identified that a surface would be touched. These supplies include pH neutral disinfecting spray, paper towels, Nitrile gloves, and hand sanitizer (70% alcohol).

A checklist of disinfecting procedures to perform has been developed. Once each church is cleared of all parishioners who attended Mass, at least two volunteers will be responsible for disinfecting all pews and other hard surfaces touched by parishioner or priest. This will include using a mist sprayer to spray hard surfaces and pews with pH neutral disinfectant. After the disinfectant remains on the surfaces for the appropriate time suggested by the disinfectant manufacturer, the surfaces will be thoroughly wiped and dried. Next, all door knobs/handles will be disinfected in a similar way. Parishioners are



encouraged to refrain from using the church bathrooms if possible. Of course, church bathrooms will be available for those who find using them a necessity.

Parishioners are asked not to attend Masses if they are ill or exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. In addition, those parishioners who do attend Mass are requested not to gather in groups inside church or in parking lots to chat or “catch up.”

We are very grateful to be able to begin returning to Mass, and the bishop requests that we all follow the directives given by the diocese, which follows those given by the CDC, in order to ensure a very safe return to public worship. Please remember that as long as the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted, if you feel any degree of personal worry or concern about returning to Mass, please make the decision to remain safe at home, and continue praying the Mass from the safety and comfort of your home. Continued updates will be released via email and the parish website that will let you know of any changes that develop.

May God continue to bless you and your family,



Fr. Philip Clement
Pastor

