

Dear Friends,

With the lifting of most pandemic gathering restrictions this week, Bishop McManus has announced the restoration of the obligation to take part in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, effective Sunday, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 6, 2021.

The obligation to be at Mass in person never applies to someone who is sick, or has compromised health, or caring for someone who is sick and at risk or infecting someone for whom they provide care at home. For this reason, we will continue to stream all liturgies celebrated at St. John, the Guardian of Our Lady Parish as usual.

Masks and social distancing are no longer required of all parishioners. However, per CDC guidelines, non-vaccinated persons, including minors, are still encouraged to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Further, some of our brothers and sisters may still wish to wear masks for good and valid reasons – for their own health, and for those with whom they reside. Please respect this decision by affording all those wearing masks 6’ distancing wherever they may choose to seat themselves in our 1000+ seat Church or in our lower chapel.

Below are some more Diocesan guidelines “at a glance” beginning May 29:

- We may return to full occupancy while maintaining good ventilation.
- Ropes blocking off every other pew may be removed.
- Sanitizing of surfaces only once a week is recommended.
- Hand sanitizing stations may be provided at entrances.
- Holy Water fonts may be filled.
- Hymnals and missalettes may be used communally.
- Congregational singing of all music may be restored.
- Entrance, recessional, and offertory processions may be restored.
- Priests, deacons, and the faithful may meet and greet before and after Masses as usual.
- Saturday 2pm Confessions will remain in the Gym until further notice.
- The Sign of Peace will be delayed until COVID-19 cases have fallen to a lower level.
- Our tradition of offering the Precious Blood of Our Lord, Jesus during weekday Masses will be delayed until COVID-19 cases have fallen to a lower level.
- The offertory will once again be collected by the passing of a basket by ushers. However, please maintain your convenient “online-giving” method of support if you have set that up before or during COVID-19. Offertory bins will remain for some weeks.

Please let us be patient with one another and love one another through this period of transition as one St. John’s – as one parish family.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jim Manzoni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.