

Safety and Hygiene Protocols

Our parish communities are a great good that we want to preserve. All those attending Mass are strongly encouraged to adhere to the following: Masks (cloth face coverings) are to be worn by everyone approaching the church and inside the church (except for those under 2 years old and those who have a medical condition that impedes them from wearing a mask), as well as all church buildings.

Social distancing is necessary. There will be clear protocols that will change where you can sit, how you can greet people, and how to receive Holy Communion. You will need to keep six feet of distance between anyone not in your household for the foreseeable future at church.

Those who are sick or symptomatic should stay home.

Please wash your hands at home, and use hand sanitizer upon entering the church. You may also bring your own supply of hand sanitizer to use before Holy Communion.

Physical Distancing: The capacity of the church is limited to no more than 25% (one-fourth) of its total capacity to ensure proper social distancing is achievable. A distance of six feet (6') is to be maintained between persons in general, as much as possible (unless you reside in the same household).

Seating availability will be clearly marked (such as designated seats in alternating pews with a 1 or 2-pew separation or seating in different sections for different Masses). Those living in the same household may sit together without social distancing.

Cry Rooms: are closed until further notice due to the limited space constrictions and inability to ensure social distancing is possible.

Rest Rooms: No more than 1 person (or 1 parent + children from same household) allowed at a time.

Bulletins and Parish printed materials: Parish bulletins may be made available to parishioners in the narthex/vestibule, along with other printed materials, but will not be distributed by ushers or others. The Parish Bulletin should also be made available online.

Offertory Collection: Secure receptacles or supervised baskets will be available at the entrances to the church or other designated places. An offertory collection will not be taken up during the celebration of the Mass.

The Sign of Peace: This liturgical action, shared among the faithful, will continue to be a "contact-free" gesture.

Reception of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is to be distributed only under the Species of the Sacred Host. The Precious Blood is not to be distributed at this time. The faithful have the right to receive either on the tongue or in the hand, according to the discipline of the Church

Holy Communion may not be received in the hand if someone is wearing a glove. Instead, proper and diligent hand hygiene should be observed before and after distributing and/or receiving Holy Communion.

The faithful should remove any masks and gloves as they approach the minister.

If possible, the reverence and the verbal exchange should take place 6 feet away: Bow – "The Body of Christ" – "Amen" – then step forward to receive.

Reception in the Hand: For those receiving in the hand, please approach the priest (or deacon or EMHC), placing your dominant hand under your less dominant hand creating a sort of throne upon which to receive the Lord. After receiving Jesus in your hand, step to the side, and place the Host gently in your mouth, making sure to consume any particles of the Eucharist that remain in your less dominant hand, as even the smallest particle is still Jesus. Then, simply replace your mask and return prayerfully to your seat.

Reception on the Tongue: During this time, it might be better to consider receiving in the hand; however, if you choose to receive on the tongue please adhere to the following: approach the priest (or deacon or Eucharistic Minister). Please allow time for the Host to be placed safely on your tongue, and for the one distributing to remove his hand, so as to avoid contact. After receiving, replace your mask and return prayerfully to your pew.

Dismissal: The Presider will announce dismissal procedure at the conclusion of Mass. Please prepare to return to your vehicles promptly. It is not recommended that you congregate with other Parishioners.