

## Protocols for reopening of St. Virgil's Church

1. **The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains in effect** until further notice. For this reason, those who wish to attend Sunday Eucharist but are unable to do so because of the limited access to the church may choose to attend Mass on another day.
2. Those who are particularly **vulnerable to the coronavirus**, i.e. those sixty (60) years of age and over, and especially those with one or several underlying medical conditions, **should follow Mass at home** via live stream until all restrictions are removed.
3. A person who is **not feeling well** for any reason, especially with a **cough** or **fever** of any kind should **stay home** to protect the health of others.
4. **Live streaming** of Mass **will be continued** for those unable to attend at 10:30 am on Sunday.
5. No group for any celebration of the Mass, sacraments, and funerals will be larger than **(115 people)** 25% of the total seating capacity within the Church.
6. St. Virgil's **will not** be open for private prayer outside of scheduled services at present time. We don't have a way to monitor the number of people coming and going or to properly clean the church and keep it a safe environment after the hours of private visits.
7. Regularly cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces in the church is necessary. This will be done after **every** service in the church by our maintenance workers. If there is anyone willing to volunteer to help, please contact the Parish Office.
8. All hymnals and missalettes were removed from the church pews, as well as all side tables in the church and vestibule.
9. Hand sanitizers are placed at the entrance into the church. However, we strongly encourage you to **bring your own hand sanitizer**.
10. All persons over the age of 2 are **required to wear face masks**.
11. Restrooms should only be used in case of necessity. They will be supplied with cleaning materials. Instructions will be posted so that anyone who uses the facility knows exactly what to do. Children are not to be let to use the restroom unattended.
12. The **church** can be **accessed only from Speedwell Avenue**. However, all doors will allow for egress in case of emergency.
13. Provision will be made for the handicapped.

14. The **Parish Office** will remain closed until further notice. However, you may contact the office **Monday – Thursday from 10am until 1:30pm.**

### **Particular guidelines for St. Virgil's Parish**

1. **Mass attendance** will be **limited to 115 people** (25% of seating capacity of our church), as noted above. This will be managed by **signing up online** via Flock Note on our website: [www.stvirgilparish.org](http://www.stvirgilparish.org). There is a “**Sunday Mass Registration**” button on the main website. Please notify us if you will need access to the handicapped entrance. The registration can be made only **one week in advance**. If you are unable to sign up online, please contact the Parish Office 973-538-1418. The registration over the phone will be available only Monday – Wednesday from 10:30 am until 1:30 pm. The seating in the church will be limited for the safety of all of us. Once registered, you will receive confirmation e-mail. If you need to change or cancel your reservation, please do so before Thursday morning.
2. **Please arrive** to the church at least **15 minutes** before the beginning of Mass in order to be checked in and seated in the church.
3. **If you arrive without pre-registering**, you may have to be turned away. This is to protect everyone's health and to follow the regulations on health and safety.
4. Volunteers will be available to welcome parishioners to church, maintaining six feet of social distance, directing them toward seating and limiting the number of persons to whom the church is accessible.
5. There is **no registration for the daily Mass** at 9am. The daily Mass will be celebrated Monday – Friday. Please enter the church using Speedwell Ave. entrance, and take a seat in a free pew on the **left** side starting with the front of the church.
6. Holy Water fonts and the baptismal fonts will remain empty. When Baptism is celebrated, a small bowl of water will be blessed and used for each adult or infant individually. All Baptisms will be private. Please contact the Parish Office regarding any Baptism Arrangements.
7. All of those attending the Liturgy **must wear a face mask**.
8. All people inside the church must **practice social distancing** by keeping 6 feet from other persons. People in the same household do not have to follow the social distancing guidelines, but must keep 6 feet from all those not in their household.
9. Please **remain in your pew**, unless you need to use the restroom.
10. Certain pews will be closed to make certain that social distancing is maintained. Temporary and safe markings will be made on the floor and carpet to maintain social distancing as well.
11. Altar Servers should not assist at the altar until a later date when the risk of contagion is further ameliorated.

12. There will be **no choir**. Singing is discouraged in general. Singing, especially in close proximity to others, may increase the risk of viral spread. The parts of the Mass, e.g., Gloria, Gospel Acclamation, etc. will be recited.
13. There is to be **no offertory procession**. Collection baskets will be placed by the doors to the church. We strongly encourage you to sing up for **Faith Direct**, our online giving platform. You can also submit your donation by our parish website or mailing in your envelopes to the Parish Office.
14. The **Exchange of Peace** is to be shared **without** human contact.
15. For **Communion**, please **stay in your pew**. A priest will bring the Eucharist to you. We strongly encourage you to **bring hand sanitizer** to use before the reception of Holy Communion. The Body of Christ will be placed in the hands of the communicant.
16. The distribution of the Precious Blood from the chalice is discontinued for the foreseeable future. The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is received under either species.
17. The priest will have a hand sanitizer near him during the distribution of Holy Communion to use as he sees fit. If, per chance, a communicant's saliva comes in contact with the priest, he will immediately stop and use the sanitizer.
18. To avoid crowding at the end of Mass, people will be **dismissed by the ushers** one pew at a time to avoid crowding. Please do not linger by the doors to the church. You will need to go directly to your vehicle.
19. The priests will not be interacting with the people by the doors.
20. For now, when a priest is approached for celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the confessional will not be used. There will be a safe social distance between the priest and penitent in a public and yet appropriate space.
21. The access to the **sacristy** is strictly **limited to the clergy**.
22. There will be **no access** to the “**Cry rooms**” or the **choir loft**.
23. The church will be **locked between Masses** to allow cleaning before the next Mass.

*All of the guidelines are subjected to change at any time.*

**Please contact the Parish Office 973-538-1418 with any questions you might have.**