



Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Preliminary Re-Opening Plan

As we welcome parishioners back to church, it is important to keep in mind that Covid-19 virus is still a great threat to public health. Distancing, hand washing, and masks should continue to be regular practices by all. The Diocese of Pittsburgh has provided guidelines as we slowly reopen our churches. We ask that everyone follow these guidelines strictly and be patient as we begin to move forward. We appreciate your continued support and patience ~ Father Tom

No one is currently obligated to attend Mass. **If you feel ill, are older than 65 or have health issues, you should stay home**, due to your higher risk from COVID-19.

We will resume weekend Masses on a limited basis beginning on the weekend of June 6/7. There will be a 4 pm Mass on Saturday at St. James, 9 am Mass at Mother of Good Counsel and 11 am Mass at St. Bede Church on Sunday. There will be no hospitality or greeters until further notice. Parishioners are invited and encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to Mass.

The number of people at Mass will be limited according to public health guidelines. Families and those who live together may occupy one pew. Single individuals will be distanced from each other by 6 feet. At Mother of Good Counsel and St. James, this will mean three people to a pew. At St. Bede this will mean two people to a pew. We will only be using every third pew. When the churches are "full" based on these seating restrictions, parishioners will be asked to attend another Mass.

Parishioners will be asked to seat themselves, beginning from the back of the church to the front of the church, observing the instructions of the ushers who will be at all campus entrances.

Missalettes and hymnals have been removed and there will be no congregational singing nor will choirs be allowed to sing until further notice. There will be one Lector and one Eucharistic Minister. Mass will not begin with a procession nor will there be an offertory procession. Boxes will be placed at the altar for the offertory collection as you leave. We encourage online giving or mail-ins/drop-offs at the parish office. There will be no holy water, offertory profession or passing of the sign of peace. The Precious Blood will not be distributed.

All parishioners over the age of two are asked to wear a mask during Mass. Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass. Parishioners are asked to come to Communion by the center aisle and exit by the side aisle, observing 6 feet distance at all time. Everyone should leave their seat, even if you do not plan to receive Communion, in order to avoid people having to step over one another. Please fully extend your arm with hands cupped as the Priest/Eucharistic Minister drops the host into your hand. Please step to the side, lift up the bottom of your mask and place the host in your mouth before exiting the church. **Please note: Holy Communion will only be distributed in the hand at this time.** After you receive Communion, please leave the church immediately, maintaining the 6-foot distance requirement. Bulletins will be available for pick-up as you leave.

We will learn from the first weekend's Mass attendance and adjust these guidelines as needed for the future. These guidelines may be updated as we progress through the different stages of reopening. Updated guidelines will appear in our bulletin; Facebook page, Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, [@smmppgh](https://www.facebook.com/smmppgh); and website, saintmarymagdaleneppgh.org.

With God, all things are possible.