

Enter and Give Thanks!

Open to me the gates of holiness: I will enter and give thanks. This is the Lord's own gate where the just may enter. Psalm 118:20.

The following guidelines are only for St. John Vianney Parish. They are designed to aid you in your return to regular attendance at Mass in the church either on Sunday or weekdays.

In order to keep things simple, they are brief. When you come to Mass and have additional concerns or questions that are not covered here, please ask. In the midst of all of this there is no such thing as a bad question. This is why this document is set up with common questions and hopefully intelligent answers.

Returning to regular attendance

1. *Once we are allowed to return to Mass, are we obligated to be there?*

No. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is still in effect.

2. *Will I still be able to watch the live streamed Mass from the parish?*

Hopefully this will happen in the not too distant future. For the time being, continue watching the live-streamed Masses from other sources.

3. *I'm an older person and I want to return, is there any reason I should not come to Mass?*

It depends. We encourage older parishioners, especially with preexisting conditions to exercise caution and consider doing one of the following:

- continue watching the live streamed Mass.
- come to daily Mass.

If you are in good health, but you are nervous about even being close to others, ask an usher to find a seat for you that will allow for good social distancing.

If you are healthy and are not experiencing anxiety, join the assembly in a marked seat or pew.

4. *My whole family will be coming to Mass; will we be allowed to sit together?*

Yes. In fact we encourage families to sit and remain together.

5. *I'm coming alone, is there going to be a seating area for individuals?*

The church has seating available to accommodate individuals and families. Ushers will be seating parishioners considering your specific need.

Preparation

1. *Is there anything I need to know before I arrive?*

Yes. As will be evident when you enter the Church things will be a bit different. Most of us have had to deal with changes to places of business already. The same is true with coming to Church. Before you come, we ask that you do the following:

- Take your temperature(s)
- Bring face covering(s). No one will be admitted without a covering. The only exception to this are children under the age of two.
- If you have your own hand sanitizer, bring it and use before entering.

2. Will there be changes before entering the church?

Yes.

- First of all, we ask you to arrive early. About 10 to 15 minutes at least will be helpful to us. There may be some delays as people sanitize and try to keep appropriate distances from each other.
- We ask you to sanitize your hands before entering and to do this either using your own sanitizer or that of the church in full view of the ushers. None of us wants to feel annoyed.

3. What about inside? Will there be changes?

Yes.

- Please follow the directions of the ushers to get you to an appropriate seat. Due to social distancing requirements we are asking that people not congregate in the building.
- Also, please try to use the bathroom before you leave the house.
- You will notice the following:
 - No Holy Water
 - No Hymnals
 - Clearly marked available seating
 - Tables with large baskets on them for your contribution
 - Tables in the front at communion stations.

4. What about the Mass itself? Will there be changes?

Yes. You will notice that Sunday Mass will have more the feel of a weekday Mass. We'll try to have some music, but it will be simple. Also, parts of the Mass will be different:

- There will be no processions or a collection taken during Mass. Offerings can be dropped off in designated baskets as you exit the Church.
- We will not have the Sign of Peace
- Distribution of Holy Communion will be a little different and only under the form of Bread.

5. How will the distribution of Holy Communion be different?

- First, ushers will invite rows to come forward. Again, this is to aid in social distancing.
- When you approach, the minister will say "The Body of Christ." You say "Amen." You will be given the Host. You will then step aside, remove your mask, consume the host, replace your covering and return to your seat.
- For those of you with young children receiving, have them receive first. They may have trouble lowering the face covering and may need help lowering and recovering their faces.
- We ask that for hygienic reasons everyone receive in the hand. If your conscience forbids this, you may receive on the tongue but please note that this may endanger the minister. He will immediately stop and sanitize his hands.
- For those not receiving Holy Communion, we ask that you bow before the Blessed Sacrament. This includes young children. Due to issues with distancing, no blessings will be given at Communion time.

6. How will we exit after Mass?

We ask you to be patient with this process. Ushers will guide the flow of people out of the building. We ask you maintain social distance as you leave utilizing the designated exits in the back of the Church. Everyone should leave the church as quickly as possible.