



## Welcome back to Mass!

We warmly welcome you back to the public communal celebration of Mass here at **Our Mother of Good Counsel Church**. For so many of us, this is the first opportunity in over three months to receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion!

Please look at the instructions. We have prepared them intending to make our worship experience one that is both prayerful and safe.

If you are **not feeling well** or are exhibiting CDC-designated coronavirus symptoms (See the link at the end of this document), please stay home and join us online.

If you are in a CDC-designated **higher risk group** (See the link at the end of this document), such as those who: are immunosuppressed, have chronic medical conditions, or have had recent exposure to a person with the COVID-19 infection, please stay home and join us online.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect; you are not required to attend Mass at this time.

Masses for the weekend of June 13 & 14 will be:

Saturday, 5:00 PM.

Sunday, 7:00 AM

Sunday, 9:30 AM

**[not 7:30 AM as previously]**

The Saturday, 5 PM Mass and Sunday, 9:30 AM Masses will be live-streamed.

Wednesday, June 17, at 7:30 AM Mass will be open to the public in the same way as the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Regular daily Masses will resume soon.

Please note that the Mass schedule is subject to change according to the needs of the parishioners.

Since the virus does not thrive in heat and humidity, we will not turn on the air conditioning during Mass.

**Before you leave home:**

- Please wash your hands.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer (wipes or small gel bottle) to use before receiving Holy Communion.

**Mass readings:**

If you are hearing impaired or for some other reason would like to read along with the Mass readings, please locate the scriptures of the day at <https://wau.org/meditations/> before you come to church.

**Music:**

Please note that **singing** at Mass will be limited. The congregation is encouraged to listen and not join in singing due to the wearing of face coverings. We will have a cantor and accompanist at the 9:30 AM Mass.

*There will be no music at the Saturday 5:00 PM and Sunday 7:00 AM Masses.*

Masses these first weeks back will be shorter than usual. Probably around 40 minutes or less.

Seating at Mass is limited due to the need to maintain 6-foot distancing.

**Face masks/face coverings:** please put on your face covering (mask) when leaving your vehicle. Face coverings are required in church and while on church grounds. Children younger than two years old do not require face coverings.

**Early arrival:** please arrive 15 minutes before the start of Mass. This will help ensure adequate time to sanitize hands and be seated comfortably for Mass.

**When you arrive at church:**

Our team of greeters (identified by badges) at the doors will welcome you and guide you to your seats.

Maintain a 6-foot distance between those not in the same household while in the church or on the OMGC campus.

Families/those in the same household do not need to maintain a 6-foot distance from each other. We ask that you stay as a unit while seated so that seating can be maximized.

**Offertory:**

The greeters will take up the collection using long-handled offering baskets. There will be no need to pass the basket by hand as we did before. There will be no offertory procession.

**Holy Communion**

Before Communion, please sanitize your hands in your pews using your sanitizing gel or wipes.

We request that all receive the Body of Christ on the palm of your hand for the time being.

The greeters will guide you up the middle aisle to two communion stations. You will see white tape on the floor to help you gauge 6 feet between you and the person in front of you in the communion procession.

When you approach the priest or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please stop about two arm's lengths in front of them.

Stretch out your hand in front of you. The priest or EMHC will proclaim "the Body of Christ." You respond, "Amen." The communion minister will stretch out his/her hand and place the sacred host in the palm of your hand. Please step 6 feet to one side. Use one hand to remove your mask from one ear and consume the host. Please reposition your mask and return to your pew.

*[We will go over this again just before communion time.]*

Gloves should not be worn to distribute or receive the Blessed Sacrament. Communion Ministers will have sanitizer to use as frequently as they desire or need.

**Conclusion of Mass:**

The clergy will exit directly to the sacristy and will not be available for greeting or conversation.

At the end of Mass, we ask you to leave the church in an orderly fashion, keeping in mind social distancing. Please return to your cars or your path home. We're going to be so happy to see our friends, but for right now, we should resist the urge to congregate inside or outside the church. Those happy days will come again before long!

**Overflow seating:** The Social Center will be opened only if the church is full. Mass will be live-streamed on our large TV screen, and a priest and EMHC will come over to distribute Holy Communion at the same time as it's being done in the church.

**Bulletins** will be available at the end of Mass. Bulletins should be taken home and not returned to the stack or left in the church.

The **Holy Water fonts** will be empty.

Our initial schedule seeks to provide convenient Mass times while allowing for adequate time to sanitize and prepare for the next Mass. We will also maintain a vibrant livestream Mass experience for those who will continue joining us from home on the Internet.

We ask you not to use the bathrooms while at the church. If you must use the bathroom because of an emergency, please notify one of the greeters or staff, so that they can inform a member of the sanitizing team to clean it before the next user.

CDC-designated coronavirus symptoms:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

CDC-designated higher risk groups:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>