

OLHC PANDEMIC WORSHIP GUIDELINES

UPDATED & Effective 5.29.2021 until further notice

The OLHC guidelines have been developed by the parish staff and parish council in consultation with Diocese of Cleveland, the State of Ohio guidelines, medical professionals, and the Medina County Health Commissioner. The guidelines reflect the parish leadership's best effort to take every reasonable step to provide the safest environment possible. COVID-19 is still a serious situation and the guidelines will change as necessary. Lastly, while total and absolute prevention of contracting the coronavirus or any other illness, is not a realistic expectation in any social setting, the goal of these guidelines is to minimize the risk of spreading the virus given the confines of our worship sites.

Sunday Mass Obligation

As of June 5, 2021, Bishop Malesic has rescinded the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass (or Saturday Vigil). All Catholics are asked to return to Sunday Mass unless ill or physically unable to do so. If you have any questions regarding the Sunday Mass Obligation, please contact Fr. Ed in the parish office.

General Mass/Worship/Event Information

- **Face Masks & Vaccines.** Face masks are no longer required. However, the diocese has encouraged (*not required*), those who are not vaccinated to consider wearing a mask. Additionally, we are not the vaccine police; no parishioner should approach another parishioner regarding his or her vaccine status.
- **Social Distancing.** No longer be required.
- **Chairs.** Chairs are in a new configuration. The new configuration might be different than what was previously deemed, "normal" at your site. The new configuration allows for normality to return but also allows for those who would prefer some separation; please do not change the new chair configuration.
- **Occupancy.** Normal Occupancy.
- **Holy Water fonts.** Holy Water fonts will return to Church entrances; Holy Water will be changed out weekly. If you are not comfortable using the Holy Water fonts, keep in mind it is not required.
- **Liturgical Ministries**
 - **Mass Coordinators.** Ministry is returning to normal; contact Sandy Lynn or local site contact to be scheduled.
 - **Eucharistic Ministers.** This ministry will return fall 2021.
 - **Altar Servers.** This ministry will return fall 2021.
 - **Commentators & Readers.** Returning to normal schedule; contact your local site contact to be scheduled.
 - **Ushers & Greeters.** Returning to normal schedule; contact your local site contact to be scheduled.
 - **Musicians.** Limited to 1 or 2 instrumentalists and 1 or 2 singers.
 - **Bread Bakers.** Ministry suspended until further notice.
- **Socials.** Socials will return to each site per the discretion of each local committee.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word.** Suspended until further notice.
- **Bulletin.** The bulletin will be available online and a small quantity will be available at each site.
- **Mass online.** Mass online will continue to be provided for those unable to attend in person.



Preparing for Mass

Before coming to Mass, all parishioners are asked to prepare by taking the following steps.

- **Monitor your health.** If you are ill or suspect you have covid symptoms, please refrain from attending Church until you are no longer contagious.
- **Wash your hands.** Please wash your hands and use hand sanitizer as needed. Hand sanitizer will continue to be provided at each site.
- **Mass Coordinators.** Mass Coordinators will continue to set-up for Mass using the guidelines implemented last year.

During Mass

What to expect and do during Mass.

- **Processions.** Processions will resume with the Lector and Clergy.
- **Hymnals.** Hymnals will return to normal use Advent 2021 when the new Breaking Bread Hymnal for the 2021-22 Liturgical Year begins. Until then, printed copies of the readings and hymns will continue to be made available.
- **Eucharistic Bread.** Homemade Eucharistic bread remains suspended until further notice.
- **Precious Blood.** The Precious Blood will not be distributed until further notice.
- **Offertory.** The Offertory collection will continue to be at the back and there will be no offertory procession until further notice.
- **Sign of Peace.** Please extend a sign of peace that is consistent with your comfort level; a non-contact method with parishioners not of your household is recommended.
- **Communion.**
 - Communion will only be distributed under the species of the Body of Christ.
 - 2 Lines at most sites will be the normative practice for the time being; Litchfield 6:00pm Vigil and Nova 11:00am Sunday will remain a single line as was the practice prior to COVID.

Sanitizing

- Every site will wipe down touch points and areas of frequent contact on a regular basis when sites are cleaned. We will no longer be sanitizing (spraying down seat, touch points, etc.) after every liturgy as we have been doing per the guidelines we have received.

