



## Diocese of Steubenville

### Norms for the Resumption of Public Masses With Specific Norms for St. Mary's, St. Clairsville, Ohio

These norms, promulgated by the Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton, Bishop of Steubenville, have been prepared in consultation with clergy and laity, after review of norms and practices in other dioceses and organizations, especially the *Guidelines on Sacraments and Pastoral Care* prepared by the Thomistic Institute. **The specific norms for St. Mary's are highlighted in red.**

#### General

- The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass remains in effect.
- Those faithful who are in at-risk groups, those who care for people in at-risk groups, and those who have any symptoms of sickness at all are most strongly encouraged not to go to Mass.
- Social distancing of 6 feet is to be maintained (including in the nave, the processional / recessional, sanctuary, sacristy, entrances to restrooms, etc.).
  - Families/households do not have to do this social distancing among themselves because they already live together. However, there is to be social distancing between such a household unit and other families/households/individuals.
- Due to shortages of hand sanitizer **parishioners are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer** with them to use.
- The faithful are strongly encouraged to wear face masks, which can be temporarily removed for the reception of Holy Communion.
- People should not congregate in the narthex or outside church; social distance is to be maintained at all times.

#### Seating

- A church may not exceed occupancy of more than 50% of seating capacity. **St. Mary's can hold 250 people socially distanced.**
  - Once capacity is reached, ushers will kindly refrain admitting more people into the church.
  - **To ensure social distancing in the pews, every other pew will be left open – follow the signage.**
- Social distancing will be maintained in the sanctuary seating for the priest, deacon, and altar servers.

## The Mass in General

- There will be no offertory procession.
- The physical exchange of the sign of peace will be omitted.
- At the conclusion of Mass, in greeting the faithful, the priest should do so outside while maintaining social distancing.

## Distribution of Holy Communion

- The Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- **The ministers of Holy Communion will cleanse their hands with hand sanitizer before beginning to distribute Communion.**
- **The priest, deacon, and/or extraordinary ministers will be taking Communion to the faithful in their pews by utilizing the space of the empty pews. At St. Mary's, all parishioners are asked to remain in their pews. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion will stand and the minister will give them Communion.**
- **No one may distribute Holy Communion wearing gloves, and no one may receive Holy Communion in the hand wearing gloves.**
- **During this time, the faithful are strongly encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand.** However, liturgical law allows the faithful to choose to receive either in the hand or on the tongue.
  - The faithful should receive Holy Communion so that the possibility of the minister touching the communicant may be reduced:
    - **If the faithful receive Communion in the hand, they should hold their hands at chest level and fully open their hand.**
    - **If the faithful receive Communion on the tongue, they should tilt their heads back and extend their tongue.**
- Following the distribution of Communion, the ministers will purify their hands in an ablution cup and then cleanse their hands with hand sanitizer.

## Music

- Because of social distancing requirements, it may not be possible to have a full choir. In such a situation, an organist or other musician and cantor are sufficient.
- **The hymnals will not be used for the time being.**

## Collection

- There will be no passing of the collection baskets.
- **Parishioners are asked to deposit their offering envelope in the collection basket located near the font in the narthex as they enter church.**
- An usher will be assigned to be near the collection basket.