

Catholic Communities of the Oswegatchie

*** St. James, Gouverneur**

*** Sacred Heart, Edwards**

*** St. Hubert's, Star Lake**

COVID-19 Safety Measures (for the congregation):

1. Only every third pew is available for use (pews are taped off or otherwise marked, **please** observe these).
2. Open pews, marked in green, are available for socially distanced seating: **ONLY** those living in the same household may be seated together without distancing, **all others** must remain 6 feet apart.
3. **ALL** are **required to wear face masks** and **maintain social distancing** when they arrive or leave church services (Mass, confessions, Baptism, Funerals, etc.).
4. **All** pews and commonly touch surfaces **are sanitized** between every Mass or other service. The product in use is Bioesque Botanical Sanitizer: EPA certified to kill COVID in 4 mins, safe for use on food contact surfaces. Added deep cleaning was performed prior to the resumption of public Masses and will be completed as necessary.
5. The Offertory procession with the gifts is eliminated as is the collection being taken up by ushers. Baskets have been placed at central locations for parishioners to place their weekly financial offering to the parish. Your ongoing generous support is appreciated.
6. The sign of peace is eliminated. All are discouraged from shaking hands or other physical contact.
7. Communion takes place during the normal time during the Mass. Parishioners should follow the floor markings for maintaining 6' social distancing while in procession and are to wear face masks. Masks may be briefly removed either just before receiving Holy Communion or immediately after receiving so as to consume the Host. Communicants then return to their pews maintaining social distancing and wearing face masks.
8. All are still encouraged to make proper responses and to sing, as is proper, during the Mass. While singing masks must absolutely be in place, covering mouth **and** nose, and singing should be done in a reserved fashion.
9. At the dismissal, again, all should maintain social distancing when leaving and avoid any gathering as a group to talk.

Your understanding and cooperation with these directives and guidelines will help to ensure that we are doing our part to establish and maintain a safe environment for all and can continue to come together to practice our faith.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to the parish office at 315-287-0114 or sjeshc@twc.com