

Holy Family COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

Welcome to Holy Family! We are glad you want to worship with us!

Safety philosophy

All of us feel some level of anxiety in a pandemic. However, we want Holy Family parishioners and visitors to feel that we have taken reasonable safety precautions to protect Mass attendees. We have implemented all controls mandated by the Archdiocese of Detroit and added some of our own.

Coming to Mass at Holy Family

We are not requiring Mass attendees to sign up before coming, but we are greeting all attendees and offering them a page with a health self-assessment. We are monitoring the total number of people arriving for Mass and the configuration of families and other natural groups in the worship space. While the Archdiocese of Detroit permits up to 50% of the maximum capacity, with proper social distancing, our maximum is still about 200, depending on the configuration of attendee groups. When the Sanctuary has reached safe capacity, we direct arriving Mass attendees to our Alternate Worship Space (the Gym). Finally, when the Alternate Worship Space has reached safe capacity, we will offer Communion to Mass attendees that wait in their cars listening/watching on their devices to our Mass livestream at holyfamilynovi.org.

COVID-19 safety controls at Holy Family

- *We urge Mass attendees to reflect on whether they might be carriers.* You can do your part to keep Mass safe by doing a self-assessment each time you plan to come. Please review the health safety questions below.
- *We urge Mass attendees to reflect on whether they are at higher risk for significant illness from COVID-19.* Please review the CDC assessment of individuals that are at greater risk for significant illness. We present some guidelines below.
- *Ventilation.* Most people contract COVID-19 from inhaling respiratory droplets that were expelled by others who are infected. Therefore, we pay special attention to air quality.
 - Holy Family has a powerful HVAC system and we keep the system fans on high during Mass.
 - To ensure a supply of fresh air and to expel potentially contaminated air in the worship spaces, we open windows and doors to the extent that weather permits and use additional fans to expel air from the worship space and draw in fresh air.
- *Social distancing and spacing.*
 - We have marked every other pew as blocked
 - We direct Mass attendees that arrive together to sit at least 6 feet away from other groups in the same pew.
- *Masks.* It is an Archdiocese of Detroit requirement that masks are worn on arrival and throughout the time that Mass attendees are in the worship space.
- *Hand sanitizer.* Please bring some with you. We provide hand sanitizer at entrances, but this will not be convenient before Communion.
- *Total number of people in the space.* As noted above, we limit the maximum number of people in the worship space so that ventilation can maintain air quality in the event that a Mass attendee is infected, but unaware.
- *Cleaning.* The worship spaces are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between Masses.

- *No singing during live Mass.* Holy Family has always valued a strong music program, but since singing has been shown to create significantly more risk of infection through the air, for the duration of the pandemic, we ask that you sing in your heart rather than out loud. Our Music Director will still lead songs that on-line Mass attendees can sing at home.
- *No hymnals or other high-touch items.* No water in fonts and receptacles. We do have projection screens for prompts during Mass.
- *During Communion.* We manage traffic flow to avoid points where Mass attendees bunch together violating social distancing. The description below applies to the Sanctuary; the Alternate Worship Space is similar and generally holds relatively fewer Mass attendees.
 - Before Communion, Mass attendees are asked to use their hand sanitizer.
 - During Communion, Mass attendees in the center sections receive Communion first, followed by Mass attendees on the left and right sides. Mass attendees in the center section move into the center aisle to receive and then return to their seats via the side aisles. Mass attendees on the right-hand side facing the Sanctuary will move into the right aisleway and return along the right-hand side of the church by the windows. In order to avoid the music section, Mass attendees on the left-hand side will move into the left-hand aisleway on the way to receive but return via the center aisle. The celebrant will provide direction during Mass.
 - Mass attendees are released one row at a time and are asked to maintain awareness and follow the six-foot-rule. There are markings on the floor as an aid. The celebrant and other Communion distributors will attempt to pace the distribution so that those receiving Communion have time to move in a way to avoid close contact with others.
 - We are only providing Communion in the hand for now. When it is your turn to receive Communion, hold your hand flat so that the distributor can place the Eucharist on your hand without otherwise touching your hand. Leave your mask on. If you have a pyx to bring Communion to someone not able to attend Mass, the distributor will place the Eucharist in the pyx for you.
 - After receiving Communion on your hand, move to the side and move your mask so that you can consume the Eucharist. Then return to your seat following the flow described above.
- *At dismissal.* We manage traffic flow to avoid points where Mass attendees bunch together violating social distancing.
 - We will dismiss Mass attendees from the back of the church first
 - Ushers will direct the rows as they are dismissed.
- *After dismissal.* Please feel free to greet and enjoy the company of your fellow Mass attendees but do so outside and remain aware of social distancing.

Your responsibility

If you choose to attend Mass at Holy Family, please do your part to maintain safety. Many regular Mass attendees are part of a high-risk group and it is all of our responsibility to protect them. After all, they might be someone you know and love.

- Pay attention to the health questions below and act accordingly.
- Wear your mask at all times.
- Bring hand sanitizer and use it thoroughly and frequently.
- Maintain awareness of your surroundings and practice social distancing. Try to stay at least six feet away from others.
- Do not sing (even though it is difficult at times).
- Follow the directions of the ushers and the celebrant. This page only provides general guidelines. The ushers will make additional decisions as the situation warrants.

Health questions

Before entering for Mass, please reflect on the following questions

- Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not tested free from the virus? Or has it been less than three days since the end of symptoms?
- Are you experiencing any of the typical COVID-19 symptoms (see typical symptoms box)?
- Have you been directly exposed to someone with COVID-19?
- Are you at high risk for illness from COVID-19 (see high-risk individuals box)?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider taking advantage of our livestreaming of Mass available on our YouTube channel. Go to YouTube, then to holyfamilynovi.

Typical COVID-19 symptoms (CDC)

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue, muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

At high-risk for illness from COVID-19 (CDC)

- Risk increases with age, especially after age 65.
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility are at high risk. People of all ages with underlying medical conditions are at risk, especially those with
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Severe obesity (BMI > 40)
- Chronic lung disease / severe asthma
- Serious heart conditions
- Compromised immune system
- Chronic kidney disease
- Liver disease

You can request a copy of the detailed risk assessment and control plan by contacting the parish office at (248) 349-8847 or admin@holyfamilynovi.org.

Frequently asked questions.

What should I do if I find out that I am positive for COVID-19 and I was at Mass during the last two weeks?

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 or are otherwise diagnosed with COVID-19, please call the Holy Family office at (248) 349-8847 or admin@holyfamilynovi.org.

What if someone else discovers that they were infected at a recent Mass we both attended?

If someone reports that they suspect they were infected when they attended Mass at Holy Family within the last 14 days, we will try to notify everyone that might have been exposed on our website and Facebook page.

Has anyone reported that they were infected during Mass?

No one has notified us yet that they were likely infected when they attended Mass. Michigan currently has a good contact tracing system, and since our infection rate is currently under control, almost all infections are traced. There is a good chance that Holy Family will be contacted either by a Mass attendee or the Health Department if someone tests positive for COVID-19 and were potentially infected during Mass.

I can't hear the celebrant because of the fan noise, can I turn them off?

Please do not turn off the fans. If they are affecting your ability to participate in Mass, please alert an usher and we will try to reposition them. We continue to work to make the overall ventilation effective while minimizing the impact to Mass attendees. We consider air quality to be an important element of our safety plan, so we pay particular attention to ventilation.

How many people normally come to Mass?

Some of the early Masses after the Archdiocese of Detroit authorized a return to live Mass were celebrating special events. Since that time, we are averaging between 200 and 220 people split between the Sanctuary and the Alternate Worship Space.

Don't see your question? Contact the Parish office at (248) 349-8847 or admin@holyfamilynovi.org.