

**ALL SAINTS PARISH**

**MASS PROCEDURES GOING FORWARD AMID COVID 19 beginning May 30**

(This is a summary. For more detailed information, please go to our website [www.allsaintsknoxville.org](http://www.allsaintsknoxville.org) to view the Bishop's decree. It was also emailed)

**Public Masses will begin Pentecost weekend, May 30-31**

**Are you obligated to attend Mass at this time? NO**

**Should you attend Mass at this time?**

- *Until further notice, the faithful are under no obligation to attend Sunday Mass as the Bishop dispensed the Sunday obligation and therefore, those who are vulnerable, elderly or just not comfortable going to a public Mass should continue to participate in the many live-streamed Masses our parish offers and may make a "spiritual communion."*
- *If you have traveled out of the country, currently have, or recently had a fever or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, do not attend public Mass at this time.*
- Please see the COVID-19 information [at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) if you need further information.

**Please read the following procedures before attending public Mass at All Saints Church**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU COMPLETE THE MASS SURVEY SO WE CAN PLAN SEATING AND POTENTIAL OVERFLOW OR MASS LIMITATION.**

**Due to these procedures, please plan to arrive at Mass earlier than usual. In addition, if you have a large family, it will be important to arrive early as if you come in later, you may not be able to sit together.**

**If there are too many people in any Mass, we may have to seat you in the Parish Hall for the live stream. Communion will be distributed in the Parish Hall as well.**

**If capacity is reached in Parish Hall as well as the Church, for the safety of all, you will not be allowed to enter.**

**Parking Lot and Church entrance-only front doors will be open unless you have limited mobility**

- Prior to leaving your vehicle, all parishioners must put on a protective face mask or covering over their nose and mouth.
- Although same-household family members may walk together through the parking lot and into the church, all others must maintain physical distancing when in the parking lot and entering the church building.
- You will only be able to enter the church by the front doors. If you have limited physical mobility, you may enter through the ADA entrance.
- Entrance into the church will be in a single file line maintaining 6 feet between each group of same-household family members.
- Each person will be asked a few questions before entrance into church and will not be allowed in if they do not have a mask or should not attend for any other health reason.
- No one should ever physically embrace or shake hands with others at any time.

### **Once in Church**

- Ushers will escort each group into church for seating. **The number of congregates at each public Mass will be strictly limited to 50% capacity (or lower).** Seating areas will be marked off to ensure 6 feet of physical distancing in all directions between groups of same-household family members.
- Holy water fonts will remain completely dry as they can potentially carry germs.
- There will not be any hymnals, Daily Missals and other items normally found in the pew book holders as these items are frequently touched and can carry the virus.
- In addition, the choir will be small and the only group singing. Individual parishioner singing is discouraged as it is thought to be an activity that expels significantly more aerosolized droplets of virus.
- Collection baskets will be in front of the baptismal fountain. As usual, you may continue to give online as this is the best and easiest way to give. If you would like to set up online giving, you may go to our website to do so. [www.allsaintsknoxville.org](http://www.allsaintsknoxville.org)
- Do not hold hands during the recitation of the Our Father.
- Celebrant may omit the Sign of Peace or all may exchange it without physical contact (bow of the head).

### **Holy Communion**

#### **IMPORTANT- Per the Bishop's decree, the following procedures are mandatory (non-negotiable):**

- An usher will direct groups to communion. Once you leave your pew/chair you will proceed single file with your mask still covering your face (maintaining 6 feet apart) to the distribution point.
- Immediately before you reach the distribution point, you will remove your protective face mask placing it in a pocket and sanitize your hands at the station provided.
- Standing on the floor-marked X, you will extend your arms and hands toward the priest/deacon with the palm of your non-writing hand facing up and completely flat supported by your writing hand.
- The communicant will immediately consume the Host, place their protective mask back on and proceed to their pew/seat. **Reception of the Host on the tongue is strictly prohibited at this time.**

### **Dismissal**

- Once Mass has completed, an usher will go to each pew (one pew or row of seats at a time) and direct each group of same-household family members to exit the church by single file line maintaining 6 feet between each group of same-household family members.
- All parishioners should go directly to their car and immediately depart (no gathering and greetings of the faithful in the parking lot).

*Once all parishioners have exited the church, pastors will ensure the cleaning and disinfecting of touched surfaces (i.e. pews, tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, toilets, faucets, sinks) with household cleaners.*