

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PARISHIONERS

As we prepare to resume the reception of Holy Communion at Mass this weekend, I want to give you a few important instructions.

1. **You are not obligated to come to Mass** - The obligation to attend Mass remains suspended. You are not obligated to attend Mass for any reason.
2. **Stay home if you are not feeling well** - This is common sense and applies to any and all illnesses. This also applies if you are “at risk” or just uncomfortable being in a public setting (see #1 above). Please use prudent judgement. It is not an act of bravery or devotion to take the chance of exposing yourself or others to this virus.
3. **Wear a mask** - You will not be admitted without a mask and are expected to wear it while in the church. This applies to everyone two years old and over. This is mandated by the state. Masks will not be provided so you must bring your own.
4. **Bring your own hand sanitizer** - We do not have an unlimited supply of hand sanitizer. Please bring your own. This is important because you will have to sanitize your hands before receiving Holy Communion.

*A note on the wearing of gloves* - Gloves are only necessary if one is caring for the sick or cleaning to avoid harsh chemicals on the skin. Gloves give a false sense of security. Once you have touched anything with a gloved hand that glove is now “contaminated” and remains so until it is taken off and disposed. You cannot sanitize the glove as you can with your hands and while you may think you are protected, you endanger others by spreading whatever may be on your gloves. There is no evidence that you contract the virus through the skin.

5. **Arrive early** - Seating will be limited and ushers will begin seating you 30 minutes before the start of Mass.
  - 4:30PM for the 5:00PM Mass on Saturday
  - 8:30AM for the 9:00AM Mass on Sunday
  - 10:30AM for the 11:00AM on Sunday

You will not be able to choose your own seat. Families that live together can sit together. Once we have reached capacity (25% of the building’s maximum occupancy while maintaining 6 feet of separation) you cannot be admitted.

I noticed this past weekend there were some who were arriving minutes before the beginning of Mass. As more people begin to come, you may find that we have reached our capacity by that time and you will not be able to enter. Arrive early so the ushers can seat you.

6. **No bathrooms** - Sorry, but it is not possible for us to maintain a properly safe and sanitized bathroom during Mass. Plan accordingly.

*updated 6/16/2020*

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7. **Entering and leaving** - You are expected to enter and exit the church through the front doors only. Downstairs is off limits. I understand that we have not all seen each other in a while. However, we cannot congregate inside the church before or after Mass for social conversation. Please take your conversations outside.
8. **HOLY COMMUNION** - The distribution of Holy Communion will happen after the end of Mass. After the final blessing, you will sanitize your hands using the hand sanitizer that you brought with you and the ushers will help line you up. Maintaining your social distancing, you may approach to receive Communion. After which you are free to exit the church since the final blessing has already been given and Mass is ended. More detailed instructions will be given at Mass.

Obviously, no one is required or obligated to receive Communion and if you are not spiritually prepared or are uncomfortable doing so you are free to leave since the final blessing has already been given.

9. **Be patient and be flexible** - This is a time of learning and adjustment. I understand that things are changing quickly and I also am aware that things are being done at other parishes that we may not be doing here. We are opening and will make progress when we are able to do so abiding by the bishop's and state's directives.

These instructions are all in compliance with the bishop's instructions for every parish. We will follow them for the health and safety of all and so that the government does not impose harsher restrictions upon us.

I look forward to seeing you at Mass this weekend. With great joy, together we will go up to the altar of God.

May God bless you all,

Father Sikorski