

Saint John Vianney Parish Updated COVID-19 Policies

(Updated 3/22/21 in light of Bishop Spalding's new policies)

- **The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is now restored by Bishop Spalding, beginning on Palm Sunday (3/28/21).**
 - This does not eliminate the prudent, Church-sanctioned reasons for personal dispensation from the obligation.
 - **Medical concerns** – If a person has a serious medical condition or reasonable fear of serious illness in this time of pandemic, that person has a grave reason for not attending and so can choose in good conscience not to attend Mass. For example, if a person is in the age bracket most at risk for COVID-19 death and is striving to quarantine in all areas of life, this is a grave enough cause to dispense that person from his or her obligation.
 - **Illness** – As before the pandemic, so it is still true: if a person has symptoms of COVID-19 or any serious illness (for example: the flu), this person is not obligated to attend Mass and in fact shows great prudence and charity by sparing others in the parish from the illness.
 - Aside: March 25th – the Solemnity of the Annunciation – is **not** a Holy Day of Obligation, though of course everyone is encouraged to attend the Masses who can.

- **For those who are at risk and/or desire masks be worn and full social distancing observed, the north transept of the nave (the seating section to the far left when you enter, with the angled pews) will be the designated seating area for this purpose.**
 - Masks are required to sit in this designated seating area.
 - Sitting in pews marked by a yellow ribbon must be observed in this designated seating area.

- **Masks will no longer be required except in the designated seating area,** though of course anyone can choose to wear a mask anywhere if they desire to do so.
- **Spacing pews will no longer be required except in the designated seating area,** though everyone is encouraged to be prudent in their seating choices.
- **Holy water will be placed in the font again.**
- **Good hygiene is still highly encouraged, and hand-sanitizer will still be available in all the usual places.**