

## General Principles

### *Church Attendance*

1. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is suspended until further notice.
2. Those who are at a higher risk for COVID-19 (i.e., those who are older than 65 or who have underlying health conditions) are urged *not* to come to church for Mass.
  - a. Masses will be livestreamed at 8:30am (English) and 11am (Spanish).
3. Those who feel in any way sick or who are worried about attendance should not enter the church.
4. In accord with current state policy, the faithful (over 2 years old) must wear cloth face coverings when in public, including when they come to church.
5. Attendees should sanitize their hands at the entrance of the church via sanitizer stations.
6. All present at Mass should sit 6 feet or more away from others. Families may sit together.

### Policies and Procedures

1. Churches will be regularly sanitized and disinfected.
  - a. Frequently touched surfaces in the church (pews/pew tops, door handles, microphones, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized after every liturgy.
  - b. Restrooms will be cleaned between Masses.
2. Signage will be placed on entrance doors instructing anyone with fever or flu-like symptoms not to enter the church.
3. Entrance for all masses will only be through the Chapel door. The back doors of the church will only be used for dismissal.
4. Parishioners must wear masks.
5. Attendance at each individual Mass will be limited to no more than 100 people depending on space and seating arrangements. Once the church is filled people will be directed to go to the gym where the mass will be livestreamed or there will be an additional mass.
6. No physical contact during the Sign of Peace will be permitted.
7. Ushers will escort parishioners to suitable seating arrangements set up for social distancing for the protection of priests and parishioners.
8. Ushers will wear masks and not make physical contact when greeting parishioners.
9. Orderly arrivals and departures will be coordinated by ushers.

10. Hand sanitizer dispensaries will be available at all church entrances and must be used.
11. At arrival and departure times, entrance doors will be propped open to limit contact with door handles. Close contact between parishioners when entering or leaving the church must be avoided. Signage will be used in implementing these measures.
12. Non-essential gatherings will be suspended, including post-Mass social gatherings/refreshments, etc.
13. Ushers taking the collection will wear masks and gloves.
  - a. Large baskets may be placed at church exits for people to drop envelopes or donations.
  - b. Ushers must immediately sanitize their hands after the collection.
14. There will be no greeting of people after Mass.
15. Confessions will be heard before the Saturday evening mass in the back door entranceway near Ryer Ave. Those waiting in line must practice social distancing.
16. Entrance to the restrooms will be through the chapel door. Children under the age of ten must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Those waiting in line must keep a six foot distance between them.
17. Large choirs are not permitted. Only a cantor and organist (or other instrument) is permitted. Musicians must maintain social distancing.

### Returning to public worship

In accordance with Archdiocesan guidelines we foresee a gradual return to public worship in the forthcoming weeks and months. It is anticipated that the reopening of our churches and the resumption of the public celebration of the sacraments will be a gradual process marked in phases:

**Phase I** – Churches Open for Private Prayer and Confessions

**Phase II** - Celebration of Baptisms and Marriages (limited to 10 attendees)

**Phase III** - Celebration of the Rite of Distributing Holy Communion

Outside of Mass

**Phase IV** – Celebration of Daily and Funeral Masses with Limited

Attendance

**Phase V** – Celebration of Sunday Mass with Supervised Attendance

**Resumption of Full Parish Mass Schedules and Sacramental Activities**

*Ritual Considerations*

1. The offertory procession is omitted. Collection is brought immediately by the ushers and placed in the safe in the sacristy.
2. The invitation to the faithful to exchange a sign of peace will be omitted.
3. Ciboria with hosts to be consecrated should be placed on a separate corporal away from the main chalice and paten.
4. When preparing for Mass, sacristans must carefully wash their hands prior to touching the altar breads and pouring the wine; a mask and gloves are encouraged.
5. All vessels containing the bread and wine should remain covered until placed on the altar.
6. Communion will not be distributed in the form of the precious blood.
7. Holy Communion will be distributed in the usual way starting with those in the front pews when directed by the ushers. All should maintain 6-foot distance from each other as they come forward for Holy Communion. Those not receiving communion should remain in the pews. Ministers should not place their hands on the heads of children or adults who are not receiving Communion in the form of a “blessing” during the distribution of Communion.
8. Given the frequency of direct contact with saliva in the distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue, every consideration should be made by each individual to receive the host reverently in open hands for the protection of all.