

# GUIDELINES FOR MASS-COVID 19

If you are not well, part of those classified as vulnerable, 'at risk' or pose a risk to others, you are encouraged to continue worshipping from home. The obligation to attend Mass continues to be suspended.

To worship in community at Church you will be required to make a reservation as we are limited in the number of people who can gather in public (a maximum of 100).

The Church bathroom will be closed due to the fact that we do not have the ability to clean and sanitize it after every use.

Proper apparel for Mass now includes donning a **face mask that must be worn the entire time you are on Church grounds**. Gloves are permissible but inadvisable.

A safe distance of at least 6 feet must be adhered to from the moment you arrive until you exit Church property.

Seating in Church will be assigned. Prepare yourself for not sitting in what you previously thought of as 'your pew'!

You will be escorted to your seat for that Mass. Only members living in the same household will be allowed to sit together. The pews have all been marked to allow for the distancing requirement for your safety. **PLEASE SIT WITHIN THE TAPED AREA.**

Given the threat of the further spread of the virus, we are required to keep a log of everyone in attendance as a way to contact those present should a member of the congregation later be diagnosed with the virus.

So that Mass will start on time, plan to arrive at least 20 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time. As you can see, the check in and seating process will take a while. No one will be allowed in once Mass has started.

While all the parts of the Mass proper to you as a member of the assembly will be observed, there will be no singing for the time being. Breath particle displacement when singing is much farther than when speaking. Until further notice any singing parts of the Mass will be carried out **ONLY** by the Cantor and musician.

There will be no exchange of any kind of physical contact...Not when you are greeting even those you haven't seen for a while...not at the Sign of Peace...not when you say good-bye. Six foot safe distancing must be adhered to at all times.

The only way to enter or leave the Church will be by the Main doors on Barnum Avenue.

There will be no Entrance, Offertory, Eucharist or Closing Processions.

Offering boxes will be placed at the end of each aisle for you to place your contribution for the ongoing work of the Church. Please place your offering in the box as you depart.

The offering of the Chalice with the Blood of Christ will continue to be suspended.

All are strongly encouraged to receive Eucharist in the hand.

Those wishing to receive on the tongue will be seated in a defined area and will receive after all others. We are required to clean and sanitize our hands after every individual receiving on the tongue.

## **AT COMMUNION TIME...**

You will **NOT** come forward to receive Communion. Fr. Bert or Deacon Dan (for now there will be no lay ministers of Communion) will approach the end of each pew.

Maintaining the 6 foot safe distance, we will come to you.

Wearing your mask, you will step into the aisle.

Fr. or Dcn. will offer "The Body of Christ"

You will proclaim "AMEN" Then you will lower your mask and fully extend your arms with your hands cradled.

Fr. or Dcn. will place the Eucharist in your hand.

You will step back into your pew, consume the Holy Eucharist and then replace your mask and be seated.

Fr. or Dcn. will then proceed to the next open pew.

## **Please Note:**

If there are multiple household members in a pew, the person sitting on the aisle should get up, walk toward the Main Entrance of the Church until there is enough room for all those in that pew to be standing single file in the aisle. All would then follow the above format.

Ministers will be nearby Fr. or Dcn. at all times to assist with purifying our hands between distributions if necessary and after each time someone chooses to receive on the tongue.

## **DEPARTING PROCEDURES...**

In order to maintain the necessary safe distancing requirements, you will be directed to leave by aisle at the conclusion of Mass. All should leave promptly and in an orderly fashion always keeping in mind the need to wear your mask and maintain the safe distance.