

IMPORTANT INFO BEFORE RETURNING TO PUBLIC MASS

SANITARY PRECAUTIONS

- Physical distancing is to be observed during the celebration of Mass by every person present. Individuals living in the same household may remain close to one another but must observe social distancing with other individuals or other households.
 - The pews and Chapel have already be stationed for physical distancing.
- Every individual, every family, are are invited to disinfect their pew after Mass. Sufficient means to disinfect or sanitize your area will be provided by the Church (i.e. hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray).
- We need to incorporate Contact Tracing. In full transparency, what this simply means is, Almighty God forbid, in the case of an outbreak, we need to be able to track where an infection is coming from.
 - To record this, the primary platform will be online via doodle.com (see link attached to this email to access the site). This has dual purpose as this will also help keep track of the attendance number and how many we can let in at a time.
 - There will be a record binder in the Vestibule (attached to the Sacristy) as secondary platform for those who may not be able to access the online check-in. Only one or the other—online or hand-written in the binder—needs to be filled out. Meaning, you do not need to fill out both. *Please be prepared to bring your own pens*
- All ministers must sanitize before and after Mass. The numbers of ministers are to be limited as much as possible to what is necessary for the celebration of the Mass. It is not recommended that ministers wear masks and gloves in the sanctuary while serving at Mass. However, ministers of Holy Communion are to wear masks during the distribution of the Body of Christ. It is no longer recommended to wear gloves.
 - Masks are to be worn by the whole congregation during the entire liturgy. Communicants are to receive communion wearing the masks, step to one side and consume the Body of Christ in order to adhere to physical distancing & aerial contact.
- Ensure that the Lectionary is sanitized after each Mass.
- Utilize a single Cantor or Musician for the Mass. No choirs. If there is to be both a cantor and a musician, social distancing is to be employed accordingly. Cleaning and sanitizing procedures are to be observed for the piano between Masses.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE MASS

Preparation of the Gifts and Offertory

- Omit the usual methods of collection. Baskets will be placed along the steps of the Sanctuary (Altar) where parishioners are to place their offertory as they come in for or leave Mass. Encourage online giving methods (via <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/hsc>)
- The gifts of bread and wine are not to be presented in the usual manner. These should already be on the credence table. (Sacristan & Altar Server: please ensure that all vessels and hosts necessary are present before Mass)

Distribution of Holy Communion

- Ushers will assist the congregation during this process. Instead of two lines, the single-file line system will be observed. There are marks
- In the comments and feedback received from several county health officials, they have strongly advised the suspension of the reception of communion on the tongue. Their advice is based on more recent studies on the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. If a person refuses to receive with their hands, instruct them to wait towards the end of the Priest's communion line. He or she **MUST** be the very last in line.
- Communicants desiring gluten-free hosts are still advised to receive from the Celebrant.
- **The communicants are to continue wearing the mask during the distribution of Holy Communion. Upon receiving communion, they are to step to one side and consume the Body of Christ.**

Recessional

- Ushers will gather the collection baskets into the one big basket at the end of Mass and proceed as normal.

In-between Masses

- Encourage the congregation to clean the pew they have occupied to sanitize for those coming to the next Mass.
- Close the doors and hold the oncoming persons at the entrance so that the sanitizing and cleaning process can be done properly and swiftly.