

Returning to Church: Current Coronavirus Pandemic Safety Protocols

(updated: 7/27/10 - Check back often for updates)

***** Mask Requirement *****

Regarding the executive order issued by Gov. Walz that mandates the wearing of masks starting July 25, in all public indoor spaces and businesses, the people attending Mass are required to wear a mask. The mask should only be removed for the reception of Communion. The order grants some exemptions from the mandate, including young children and people with special medical conditions.

Along with hand-washing and physical distancing, wearing a mask is an effective way of protecting the health and safety of parishioners and limiting the spread of the coronavirus.

For Masses:

Disclaimers:

1. We will be only filling our churches up to 50% capacity, or 250 maximum.
2. The obligation to attend Mass continues to be suspended.
3. Those who ARE NOT feeling well and who have serious preconditions should stay home and take the opportunity to participate online.
4. Per Bishop Kettler: Congregants are encouraged to wear masks at Mass.

Some of the protocols being taken:

1. Holy Water fonts have been removed.
2. Singing by congregation is discouraged. Mass parts are being said and not sung to encourage safety. We ask that you simply take in the liturgical music provided by our musicians through listing only.
3. Doors will be propped open.
4. Sanitizer stations are available and encouraged to be used on entry.
5. All available pews will be sanitized before AND after Mass.
6. Pews are roped off to keep social distancing.
7. Ushers will be trained to help seat people for social distancing.
8. Hymnals have been removed.
9. Special instructions for Holy Communion will be implemented to keep 6ft distancing.
10. Tape on the floors will facilitate the process keeping people distanced during communion.
11. There will be limited liturgical ministers (1 reader, 2 musicians, and priest).
12. Priests will sanitize before AND after communion.
13. There will be no congregating before and after Mass.
14. We will fill our churches only to 50% capacity as outlined by the Governor (ushers will be counting).

For Adoration:

Wellness assessment prior to assignment: Fever, not feeling well, cough, etc.

- If ill or have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 within 2 weeks
- Contact Coordinator if require a sub
- Masks encouraged
- One door entry and exit
- Adorers sign in
- Use hand sanitizer
- Pick up yellow card and place in pew
- Keep 6 foot social distancing both in pews and in the hallways and bathrooms
- All pews will be cleaned at end of day

- Adorers are asked to take the provided white and yellow placards with them into the pew to indicate that the spot has been occupied.
- Complete sanitization of pews will be done at midday and end of day.