



Embracing God's People • Equipping Disciples • Accompanying Believers

Protocol for Sunday Eucharist

In light of the guidance prepared by State, LA County and Archdiocesan authorities with responsibility for our public response to COVID-19, the following protocols are established for the Celebration of Sunday Eucharist at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Northridge.

Be aware in these days when we adapt our usual celebrations of public worship, that the threat from COVID-19 remains. PLEASE seriously review [CDC recommendations](#) before coming to Our Lady of Lourdes for any celebration of the Holy Eucharist. If you are in an "at-risk" group, please join in worship with us through our [regularly scheduled live stream](#) of mass. Avail of the dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Eucharist offered by Archbishop Gomez.

Mass Times and other scheduled opportunities for participation in sacraments are being constantly updated in light of developments and the public response related to COVID-19. The most current information will be found on the [parish website](#).

In these extraordinary times, our return to Church and the celebration of public mass will continue to look and feel different for some time to come. Thank you for your patience and your cooperation as we work together to make this a successful, healthy and faith-filled return to our public celebrations of the Eucharistic Liturgy at Our Lady of Lourdes.

NOTE: Inclement weather will occasion the cancellation of outdoor services. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

RISK LEVEL - WIDESPREAD - OUTDOOR WORSHIP

A Few Days Before Church

There are no restrictions on the numbers of people who may attend outdoor celebrations of Sunday Eucharist, other than those relating to appropriate physical distancing. We continue to utilize pre-registration in order to facilitate parish staff reaching out to inform people quickly in the event that someone is exposed to COVID-19 in Church. Pre-registering ensures accurate information should we need to reach you quickly.

[Pre-registration](#) is available from 7pm Wednesday until 12noon Saturday, each week. [Go online](#) and fill in the form for the mass time you wish to attend. All fields are necessary. Parishioners unable to access the website may call the parish office for assistance.

Those not pre-registered may be admitted into the worship space upon completion of a contact information card on-site.

On the Day of Church

Before You Leave Home

- Check the weather forecast (Inclement weather will occasion the cancellation of outdoor services)
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Restroom facilities will be open for emergency use only. Please be prepared before you come out.
- Make sure you have a suitable mask or face-covering for all persons over the age of 2. Children with breathing difficulties should not wear a face covering (per LA Co. Guidance for Face Coverings).
- Plan to arrive allowing enough time to park and move through the following protocols.
- Those joining in public worship in the parking lot provide their own seating (deck-chairs, blanket, etc)

Upon Arrival in the Parking Lot

- Park carefully, observing that cars should park in **every other space** to allow for physical distancing (Note that this is more of an issue for when we return to our vehicles than when we park as people arrive at different times, but tend to leave all at once).
- Before leaving your vehicle, ensure everyone in your party is wearing their mask/face-covering.
- Walk toward the Moran Center through the East side of the Parking Lot and you will be greeted as you approach.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 10, 2021.

Check-In

If you have pre-registered, proceed directly to the greeters who will check you in by asking you to

1. verify your contact information, and,
2. help us plan for communion time by indicating if your party will be receiving communion. (We consecrate a precise number of hosts as there is no tabernacle available in this space).

If you have not pre-registered, please proceed to the area where contact information cards are available.

1. Fill in the contact card legibly with the appropriate information (one per family, simply add names of family members on the reverse side of the card.)
2. If you are receiving communion, write a "C" in the top right corner of the card. If more than one in your group plans to receive communion, indicate how many in your group are planning to receive with the appropriate number, e.g. "C-3". (We consecrate a precise number of hosts as there is no tabernacle available in this space).
3. Once completed, proceed to approach the greeters, and give them your completed contact card.

Hand Sanitizer

Proceed to the next station where you will find a touchless hand-sanitizing station. Here everyone is asked to sanitize their hands.

Symptoms Check

Continue to the next station, which involves a review of symptoms for COVID-19. Everyone will be asked to verify that they have not shown symptoms in the past 14 days. Everyone will also be asked to verify they have not had close contact with anyone else who has shown symptoms in the prior 14 days. Once again, follow the directions of the volunteers and staff.

Taking Your Place

- As you enter the worship area, offering baskets will be available to drop off your contribution.
- At all times, please observe physical distance of at least six feet between members of different households.
- Once you situate yourself, endeavor to minimize movement

Procedures During Mass

- During Mass, masks/face-coverings must be worn to cover nose and mouth.
- The celebration of the liturgy will be necessarily minimal. Congregational singing is not permitted at this time.
- There will be no basket passed to collect offerings. A basket will be placed by the entrance/exit, where you may leave your offering as you enter/depart.
- We ask that there be no physical contact during the Lord's Prayer or Sign of Peace
- Minors must be accompanied by an adult in the event they need to use the restroom.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 10, 2021.

Receiving the Eucharist

If you have brought your personal sanitizer with you, we recommend that you use it to sanitize your hands before receiving communion.

- Please remain in place.
 - Members of the congregation who are receiving communion are asked to remain standing until they receive.
 - Those not receiving are asked to be seated.
- Communion will be brought to you by a Eucharistic Minister.
- Once you have received, please be seated (this helps the EMs to identify who is waiting to receive)

After Mass

We kindly remind worshippers to please avoid lingering in the Parking Lot. As you depart, please observe physical distance of at least six feet between members of different households. We ask that you go carefully, and directly to your cars. All traffic is to exit the parking lot to the south, and on to Superior Street.

Thank you for taking the time to review these protocols as part of your commitment to the health and well-being of our community.

We look forward to having you join us again next Sunday.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 10, 2021.

RISK LEVEL - SUBSTANTIAL - INDOOR WORSHIP

A Few Days Before Church

Per LA County Public Health Department protocols, those gathering for indoor worship must, at all times, observe physical distance of at least 6' from others not living in the same household. This necessarily reduces the number of people who may gather for indoor worship at any one liturgy.

To avoid disappointment and to facilitate parish staff reaching out to inform people in the event that someone is exposed to COVID-19 in Church, those attending will need to provide basic contact information.

[Pre-registering](#) ensures accurate information should we need to reach you quickly.

[Go online](#) and fill in the form for the mass time you wish to attend. All fields are necessary.

Parishioners unable to access the website may call the parish office for assistance.

*Those **not pre-registered** may be admitted into the church building on a space-available basis upon completion of a contact information card on-site.*

On the Day of Church

Before You Leave Home

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Church restroom facilities will be open for emergency use only. Please be prepared before you come to Church.
- Make sure you have a suitable mask or face-covering for all persons over the age of 2. Children with breathing difficulties should not wear a face covering (per LA Co. Guidance for Face Coverings).
- Plan to arrive about 20 minutes before mass is scheduled to begin. Doors will open 15 minutes before mass.

Upon Arrival in the Parking Lot

- Park carefully, observing that cars should park in **every other space** to allow for physical distancing (Note that this is more of an issue for when we return to our vehicles than when we park as people arrive at different times, but tend to leave all at once).
- Before leaving your vehicle, ensure everyone in your party is wearing their mask/face-covering.
- Walk toward the patio area closest to Stroup Hall (as though entering Stroup Hall), and you will be greeted as you approach.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 10, 2021.

Check-In

As you approach the patio, a Greeter will ask you for your name, and ask you to verify your contact information. (Anyone who is not pre-registered will be directed to a “stand-by” line.) There will also be a check to ensure that each person is wearing a mask/face-covering.

Symptoms Check

Follow the directions of the greeters to the next step, which involves a review of symptoms for COVID-19. Everyone will be asked to verify that they have not shown symptoms in the past 14 days. Everyone will also be asked to verify they have not had close contact with anyone else who has shown symptoms in the prior 14 days. Once again, follow the directions of the volunteers and staff.

Hand Sanitizer

The next station is located at the base of the ramp leading to the Church entrance, at the Church wall behind the statue of Jesus. Here everyone will be asked to sanitize their hands.

Single-Door Entry

When hands are sanitized, proceed up the ramp to the door. Here you will be greeted once again, and asked to check your name before entering into the Church building.

Door-to-Pew Escort

- Once again, observing physical distance, wait until an usher meets you and escorts you to a pew inside the Church. Please patiently accept the direction of the usher showing you to your seat.
- People will be seated from front to back, and families will be seated together. The number of people in your party, and the placement of people already in Church will factor in the seating arrangement.
- Once you arrive at your pew, take your place until mass commences, remaining there until an usher invites you to leave the pew again when it is time for communion at the conclusion of mass.

Procedures During Mass

- Liturgies are live streamed, and your presence indicates your agreement to have your image and/or voice included in our live-stream broadcast.
- During Mass, masks/face-coverings must be worn to cover nose and mouth.
- The celebration of the liturgy will be necessarily minimal. While we enjoy music and a cantor, congregational singing is not permitted at this time.
- There will be no missalettes/envelopes in the pews.
- There will be no basket passed to collect offerings. A basket will be placed by the font, where you may leave your offering as you depart.
- We ask that there be no physical contact during the Lord's Prayer or Sign of Peace, even between members of the same household.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 10, 2021.

Receiving the Eucharist

Sharing of Communion will follow the Final Blessing.

If you have brought your personal sanitizer with you, we recommend that you use it to sanitize your hands before receiving communion.

Ushers will invite people to come forward in procession, observing physical distance, to one of two ministers distributing communion in front of the altar. Please be prepared to move when invited, but do not leave your pew until asked to do so by the usher.

We ask that you follow the lead of the ushers when moving from the pews to the altar. Remember to maintain physical distancing of 6' while moving. Visual cues will be available to help you.

- Keep your mask/face-covering in place as you approach the priest.
- Receive only in the hand.
- Step to the side, remove your mask/face-covering, and consume the Sacred Body of Christ.
- Immediately replace your mask, turning to walk down the center aisle.
(Families with younger children might want to practice this at home in advance)
- As you approach the Baptismal Font, your weekly contribution may be placed in the basket found on the table.
- Turn left, and proceed to exit the building by the side door leading out to the parking lot.
- We kindly ask that all worshippers promptly leave the church when directed, in order that the church can be immediately sanitized in preparation for the next mass.

After Mass

Please do not linger near the doorway as people will be following behind you and we will all need to continue to observe physical distancing. We ask that you go carefully, and directly to your cars. All traffic is to exit the parking lot to the south, and on to Superior Street.

We look forward to having you join us again next Sunday.

Concluding Thoughts

Thank you for taking the time to review these protocols as part of your commitment to the health and well-being of our community. We appreciate that these temporary practices are regrettable, if necessary. They invite us all to make sacrifices of comfort and ease with which we associate coming to Church among our Lourdes Family. We choose to do these things as an expression of care and concern for one another, for those who worship alongside us in our Church. We look forward with great hope to that day when we will all gather together as we once did, looking back at these days as crazy, and by God's grace never again to be repeated.

NOTE: Protocols appropriate to **MODERATE** and **MINIMAL** Risk Levels will be developed in line with LA County Department of Public Health guidance as it becomes available.

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