

Welcome Back to Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes!

Thank you for registering to join us for the celebration of Mass. We look forward to seeing you and praying with you. Before you come, I'd like to make sure you know what to expect, so that you are prepared for the unique experience that is "Mass in the Time of COVID-19".

First, before you come:

(1) On the same day as Mass, before you leave the house, please carefully screen yourself and everyone who's coming with you, to see if you have any symptoms associated with COVID-19. If you, or anyone in your party, answers "Yes" to even ONE of these questions: PLEASE stay home! Perhaps for the first time in your life, YOU ARE DANGEROUS!

1. Have I traveled outside of the country in the past 14-days?
2. Have I been exposed to a person with suspected or confirmed Covid-19?
3. Do I have a temperature of 100.4 or higher?
4. Do I have new or increased shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
5. Do I have a new cough?
6. Do I have any two of the following symptoms: Chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore Throat or new loss of taste or smell?

If you answer "yes" to even one of the above questions, you are asked to stay at home.

(2) If you or anyone in your household is vulnerable, due to age or some underlying health condition, although we can't prevent you from coming, we strongly encourage you to stay home for now. This applies even if the vulnerable member of your household is staying away. YOU could bring this illness home to them, and none of us wants to see that happen.

Second, when you arrive at Our Lady of Lourdes:

(1) The only open entrance to our building will be the doors at the north end of the school hallway, by the larger of our two parking lots. We recommend that you park in the north lot, so you don't have to walk all the way around the building on your way in.

(2) Please put on your face covering and begin observing strict 6-foot social distancing from all people outside of your household from the moment you get out of your car, and maintain this until you're back IN your car and heading home.

(3) Once you get in the building, there will be a line in the hallway leading to a check-in station right outside the church entry. Please continue to maintain social distancing while you wait to check-in. Markings have been placed on the floor to assist you with this.

(4) At the check-in station you will be given one last chance to self-screen for COVID symptoms, your name and the number of persons in your party will be checked against our list of reservations, and an usher will escort you to your seat in church. If anyone arrives at the check-in station WITHOUT a reservation, they will be given instructions of how to register for a future mass. This will happen even if someone TRIED to make a reservation, but through some

oversight or error, we did not receive or record it. Also, please do not surprise us by bringing more people in your party than you told us about when you reserved your spot. Unfortunately, additional guests in your party must be turned away.

(5) We must continue to observe social distancing throughout the liturgy, so please remain seated where the usher seats you, abiding by our face covering regulation even if it's scratchy, hot or otherwise uncomfortable.

Third, once the Mass gets started:

(1) You will notice a number of changes in the liturgy, all designed to limit our risk of exposing each other to COVID-19. There will be no congregational singing, we'll be using the shorter forms of all prayers and Scripture readings, we're skipping physical contact, like hand-holding or the Sign of Peace, and since the bishops have decided that the Presider should NOT wear a face covering during the liturgy, he will be observing DOUBLE social distance, that is, 12 feet, from everyone else throughout the liturgy. The one special feature that some of you might actually appreciate is that we've been asked to keep our homilies short and to the point!

(2) Although we WILL be serving communion, we will wait until immediately AFTER Mass to serve you as you leave. This gives our eucharistic ministers time to wash their hands thoroughly and carefully before they get close to you, and gives our Presider time to put his face mask ON before serving communion, again all to keep you as safe as we can. Just be prepared to follow the instructions that you will receive at the time.

Finally, once again THANK YOU for coming back to church to participate in public worship. It is GOOD to be together, and one day it will be even BETTER to be "back to normal."

Peace,
Fr. Woody