



**ST. FRANCIS**  
of ASSISI PARISH  
A Roman Catholic Community in  
LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

## A LETTER FROM FATHER JEFF TO THE PARISH

Tuesday, May 26th 2020

RE: New Guidelines for St. Francis of Assisi Parish Concerning Saturday Vigil Mass, Sunday Mass, and the Reception of Holy Communion by the Faithful Outside Mass

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family,

In response to Bishop Libasci's announcement that parishes in our diocese are now allowed to resume the distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass, I am pleased to inform you of how this will be happening here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

**There will be two weekend Masses offered at St. Francis: 4:00 PM on Saturday (Vigil) and 9:30 AM on Sunday.** Both of these Masses will be livestreamed, so parishioners can participate virtually, through personal or family prayer, or they can take advantage of a new and better option. Starting the weekend of Pentecost (May 30th & 31st), parishioners can listen to the Mass from their vehicles in the St. Francis parking lot, where speakers will be set up. This way, communal prayer can be offered in close proximity to where the Holy Sacrifice is being offered inside the church.

Holy Communion will be distributed to all who wish to receive after Mass has concluded (approximately 5:00 PM on Saturday, 10:30 AM on Sunday).

Here are the guidelines and information for all who wish to receive Holy Communion. This list will also be available on our parish website, and handed out as you drive into the parking lot during the weekend of Pentecost:

- All church doors will be locked during the private Mass.
- After Mass has concluded, Holy Communion will be distributed in the north entryway to the church, which will be configured as a temporary worship space. The north entryway faces the school recreational field. Parishioners may kneel or stand to receive Communion, and may do so in the hand or on the tongue. Gloves must NOT be worn by individuals receiving or distributing Holy Communion.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as you approach the entryway.
- Parishioners are asked to wear masks when inside the church building. Masks outdoors are at the discretion of individuals, and the parents/guardians of children. Please note that, for safety reasons, masks should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2. St. Francis Parish will NOT be distributing masks.

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- Parishioners are asked to observe current social distancing standards.
- Parishioners are asked to maintain reverence while waiting to receive Holy Communion.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly.
- After receiving Holy Communion, parishioners may exit the same way they entered. The church will NOT be open for prayer during this time.
- The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in effect until further notice. Parishioners who are showing symptoms of COVID-19, such as a cough or fever, or who have tested positive for the virus, or come into contact with someone who has tested positive, are asked to stay home.

I hope you all will be able to come, and please spread this good news which is a beginning to a full opening up of public worship.

God bless,  
**Father Jeff**