



MARY *Mother of
the Church*

COVID-19 Liturgy Preparedness Plan

It is important to remember how the Coronavirus spread around the world and through our community. This is a contagious virus, and we need to take every precaution to prevent its continued spread. While we cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed to Covid-19 while at Mary Mother, we will be vigilant with our efforts to maintain the cleanliness of the Church and facilities. The following information should be reviewed by every member of our spiritual family, and we pray that following these guidelines will keep everyone safe, while worshipping at Mary, Mother of the Church.

We will continue to seek input from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health, for the most up to date recommendations and make changes as needed.

In addition to our Parish Covid-19 Preparedness Plan, we have put into place these safety measures related to the celebration of Mass:

- Every other pew has been roped off, ensuring a 6' distance. Communion line spacing is indicated by blue dots on the floor, each 6' apart.
- Hymnals, children's missals, and missalettes have been removed. The baptismal font has been drained; the 2 small holy water fonts have been removed.
- Air is continuously circulated by the HVAC system. Main doors are opened for outside air.
- A basket will no longer be passed at the offertory. Instead, two stationary donation boxes are located to the left and right of the baptismal font. Parishioners are encouraged to drop their offering upon arrival or after dismissal.
- The west doors from the upper parking lot are the sole entrance to the Church. They will be opened 15 minutes before each Mass, and will be propped open.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available to worshippers.
- Clergy, employees, lay ministers and musicians have their temperature taken upon arrival. All are required to wear masks, unless they are serving in the sanctuary or choir loft.
- Musicians follow Archdiocesan directives which allow a cantor, accompanist/instrumentalist. Pews nearest the cantor stand are roped off to maintain distance. Musicians wear a mask when not singing and maintain a 6-foot distance from each other, unless from the same household.
- Prior to Mass, the cantor announces that congregational singing is not allowed, and that a worship aid may be downloaded from the parish website.
- Communion hosts in a single ciborium are covered by a pall during the consecration, a practice approved by the Office of Worship.
- Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors wash and sanitize their hands prior to touching sacred items.

- After the final blessing, Eucharistic Ministers, with masks on, sanitize their hands and enter the sanctuary to receive Holy Communion. They re-sanitize their hands, receive their vessel from the Priest, then walk to their communion station. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the Eucharistic Minister will re-sanitize their hands, if they make contact with another's hand. Every communion station has an adjacent credence table with a corporal to place their communion vessel, and hand sanitizer.
- The assembly lines up for communion, using the blue dots to help with social distancing. Upon approaching the minister, the communicant receives the Eucharist in the hand, steps to the side, removes his/her mask to consume the host, then replaces mask. After receiving communion, each person is free to depart using either doors 3 or 4.
- Anyone desiring to receive the Eucharist on the tongue is asked to be the final person in the priest's line.
- After communion, all hosts are returned to one ciborium, covered, and transferred to the tabernacle. Vessels are purified, and then washed in hot, soapy water. After the weekend Masses, sacred linens are purified, and then washed and ironed.
- At the conclusion of Mass, the accompanist uses disinfectant wipes to sanitize the cantor stand, keyboard, and other surfaces that have been touched.

The following guidelines are recommended for all those that attend Mass at Mary Mother:

- You are required to wear a mask at Mass and at all times in the building, unless you are unable to due to a physical or mental condition.
- Children under the age of 2 are never to wear a mask. Children between the ages of 2-5 are encouraged to wear a mask.
- If you are showing symptoms of illness, please refrain from coming to church.
- We invite you to let us know if you are sick, so we can pray for you while you remain home to recover.
- Please do not engage in any physical touch when greeting each other. Instead, consider an appropriate non-physical action such as a nod.
- Do not congregate indoors after Mass.
- If you are diagnosed with Covid-19 within 48 hours of being in our building, please call the parish office and notify us when you were here so we can determine who else may have been exposed.
- Some of you are at very low risk of complications from this virus or other illnesses. Please be mindful and considerate of those around you that may not be.

Any questions regarding this Worship plan should be directed to the Director of Liturgy Roxanne Tozier.
 Email rtozier@mmtoc.org or call 952-890-0045 x 247. Updated: July 29, 2020