



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
25 School St
Somersville CT 06424

Dear Parishioners,

As we move into a new era of Catholic worship, I ask that you please take time to familiarize yourself with the new protocols listed below that will be in effect at All Saints when we begin to gather again for daily Mass, at a date and time yet to be determined. These protocols have been put in place for the health and safety of all who gather to celebrate the Eucharist, and great care has been taken to assure that we will be able to gather as safely as is humanly possible. I do remind you, however, that no environment can ever be assured to be completely risk free. Please be aware that Bishop Cote has announced that for the foreseeable future the obligation to celebrate the Sunday Eucharist has been removed, and everyone is dispensed from this obligation. I'm sure this measure was taken to encourage people to continue to stay home if they are deemed to be at risk in any way.

As we continue to move forward in faith, we ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and our minds to this new reality we are experiencing and to guide us more deeply into the peace Christ promises.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to this new process.

MASS PROTOCOL FOR ALL SAINTS PARISH

- ❖ Seating will be limited in accordance with State of Connecticut rules (When seating capacity is reached the doors will be closed)

- ❖ Anyone not receiving Communion is asked please to sit in the center aisles to more easily facilitate your exit at the end of Mass, also assuring that safe distancing will be kept in the side aisles for those who are receiving Communion
- ❖ Anyone whose health is compromised in any way (or if you are not feeling well) is not to enter the church at this time
- ❖ Parishioners are to remain in their cars until the church doors are hooked open (10 to 15 minutes before Mass begins)
- ❖ Everyone will enter through the front door
- ❖ Please maintain a respectful, reverential silence while inside the church
- ❖ People are not to congregate before or after Mass
- ❖ Masks must be worn in the church at all times
- ❖ Hand sanitizer will be available at the door of the church, however everyone is encouraged to bring their own sanitizer.
- ❖ Holy water containers have been emptied
- ❖ Social distancing is to be enforced at all times
- ❖ Pews have been roped off to comply with social distancing (so your favorite pew may not be available)
- ❖ Families may sit together, all others are to maintain social distancing
- ❖ Pews will be sanitized after each Mass
- ❖ All books and Mass cards have been removed from the church

- ❖ There will be no altar servers assisting at Mass
- ❖ There will be no singing during Mass and no processions
- ❖ A collection basket will be placed at the doors of the church for your weekly offering (you may also use electronic giving or mail your donation to the rectory) Collection baskets will not be passed during Mass
- ❖ The Sign of Peace has been omitted completely
- ❖ ***Communion will be distributed to those wishing to receive after Mass has ended.*** Bear in mind that there is no completely safe or sanitary way to distribute or receive Communion
- ❖ People receiving the Eucharist are to process up the side aisles to the rear of the church. Fr. Gerry will be at the end of the center aisle to distribute the Eucharist
- ❖ Those not receiving Communion are to proceed down the center aisle and exit through the side doors
- ❖ The floor will be clearly marked to maintain proper distancing
- ❖ Those receiving Communion should wait near the last pew on the side aisle until the person on the other side of the church has received Communion
- ❖ Communion will be distributed only on the hand. ***Gloves may not be worn when receiving Communion.*** When you have received the Eucharist you are to step aside, remove your mask and place the Host in your mouth, then immediately replace your mask
- ❖ Once you have received, pray a brief prayer of thanksgiving, and exit through the front door
- ❖ No one will be allowed to enter the sacristy

- ❖ The church will not be air conditioned. The windows will be open to allow for better circulation of air
- ❖ Please do not leave anything in the pews or in the church
- ❖ These protocols will be revised as necessary to ensure that we are gathering in the safest and most sensible way possible

Certainly, all of this is new for everyone and it will take some time for us all to adjust to these changes. Please keep in mind that if these safety measures are not met, we will not be able to gather at all. Obviously, this is not the Mass we are used to celebrating. Please be patient. Please be kind. Please be understanding.

Peace,

Fr. Gerry