

St. Joe's Catholic Comeback Mass Policies and Procedures

Dear Friends,

Returning to Mass has not been an easy process. There are many things to think about and decisions that have needed to be made to keep people as safe as possible. Because of this reality, for now the celebration of Sunday Mass will look and feel different. One way to understand this is that the absolute priority right now is the celebration of the Eucharist and the reception of Communion. These are always the central moments of any Mass but we must emphasize their centrality in a new way now.

ATTENDANCE

- Archbishop ListECKI announced that the dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass expired September 14th and is not being extended.
- We plan to continue to livestream the 10:30am Mass on our Facebook Page for anyone who cannot attend Mass in person during this time due to an underlying health condition.

You should NOT attend Mass if:

- You are not feeling well or you have a fever or flu-like symptoms. You can find a listing of Covid-19 symptoms [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) or go to your browser and type this in the url box: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.
- You were exposed to someone who has Covid-19.

You are encouraged to not attend Mass if:

- You are in a "high-risk" category for Covid-19. If you are unsure, please check with your doctor.
- You are the caregiver for or you live with someone who is at "high-risk" for Covid-19.

For those returning to Mass

- Our lowest attended Mass is the 4pm on Saturday. The third Sunday of each month may have higher attendance at 10:30 am due to the start-up of our CFM programs. We feel there is usually room at all 3 masses to keep people socially distanced with 4 pm on Saturday having the most room. We have decided to not require sign-ups or tickets to attend Mass at this time. We will continue to call upon the service of volunteers to help seat people. Please cooperate with them so we can best use our space to capacity while social distancing is maintained.

- Doors will open 15 minutes before Mass and they will be closed when Mass starts or we reach our attendance limit. We will not break-up a family that arrives but we cannot let anyone in once we reach that limit.
- Please enter only through the main church doors under the car port. The Knights of Columbus door will be locked.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Please refrain from physical contact with anyone not living in your household. This includes handshakes and hugs.
- Keep 6 feet of distance from those not living in your household at all times; in the pews and out of the pews.
- Once you sit in a pew, remain there; do not move to another spot in another pew.
- No lingering in the gathering space before or after Masses.

LITURGICAL PRACTICES

- There will be no hymnals in the pews. If you take a worship aide, please take them with you after mass as we cannot reuse them.
- No collection will be taken. We have baskets in the back of Church for you to place your donation to the Church. Thank you for your support!
- There will be no communal sign of peace.

The Reception of Communion

- Fr. Andy will distribute Holy Communion and may have one or two additional Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He will go to each section one at a time. There will be markers for you to stand socially distanced while waiting to receive and hand sanitizer stations are in the aisle. If you are not receiving Holy Communion please do not come forward.
- Fr. Andy and the Extraordinary Minister(s) of Holy Communion will wear a mask during the distribution of Communion.

- Holy Communion will be received under one form only (i.e. no cup) and **must** be received on the hand.
- Please wear a mask when receiving communion. Do not remove it before receiving the Holy Eucharist. Rather, receive on the hand and then take a few steps to the side, away from Fr. Andy or the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion before removing your mask to receive. There are hand sanitizers in the Gathering area for your use.

Recessing after Mass

- During the closing song, the Hospitality ministers will dismiss you from your pews from the back to the front one by one. Please leave the Church and Gathering space immediately when dismissed. Please do not gather with others in the gathering space.