

26 May 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ignatius of Antioch,

Please review these REVISED guidelines in light of the third update of the Diocesan Guidelines published here:

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/forward-with-christ/worship-guidelines>

1. **Weekday Mass** will continue to be celebrated at Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for the foreseeable future.
2. **Vigil Mass** on Saturday at 5:00 PM will continue to be a **non-public “livestream” liturgy.** We will continue to live-stream the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday for the foreseeable future and it will continue to be archived and on demand for your viewing on Sunday or anytime during the week available [HERE](#). Again, this is a non-public Mass and the church will not be open for it.
3. Due to the difficulty in implementing safety protocols, and to ensure the church remains as disinfected as possible, St. Ignatius of Antioch will celebrate **one public liturgy on Sunday at 10:00 AM** for the time being – as we approach this in a slow and extremely cautious fashion for the safety and common good of all. The first public weekend Mass will be on **Sunday, May 31st at 10:00 AM.**

For the common good of all, below are the highly-suggested recommendations for worshipers:

- Those who are sick or symptomatic should **stay home**. One is always dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass due to illness.
- All parishioners should take their temperature prior to coming to Mass. If you have a temperature of 100.4 or higher (Fahrenheit) you should **stay home**.
- If you are in a high risk category due to age, underlying health conditions, or any other issue that places you at higher risk for COVID-19 or someone that you care for, you should **stay home**.
- Attendance at St. Ignatius will be limited to 50% capacity. Every other row of pews have been roped off for proper social distancing of six feet between persons/families to take place. Families who live in the same house together or

who have been together during the “stay at home” order may sit together. All other persons will be seated with six feet of distance between them.

- Seating is limited to somewhere between 110 and 400 people. (The Diocese recommends 50% of our total Church capacity). We sincerely apologize if we run out of seating.

- Parishioners should wash their hands at home before coming to church and use hand sanitizer upon leaving their vehicle and entering the church building. (Hand sanitizer stations are situated inside the Church entrance).

- Physical distancing of a minimum of six feet in all directions must be the norm.

- Diocesan guidelines recommend that parishioners enter church through one particular set of doors and exit another. Upon arriving at St. Ignatius of Antioch, parishioners should line up outside of the Lorain Avenue doors – following the social distancing signs on the ground – with 6 feet of distance between you and the other person. The Lorain Avenue doors will not be opened until **9:30 AM on Sunday.**

- Upon arriving through the Lorain Avenue doors you will be asked to use **hand sanitizer. Use of masks is also highly recommended, as you will be in a closed space with possibly hundreds of people. If you do not have a mask, we will provide you with a disposable one.**

- You will be seated in an orderly fashion by an usher or hospitality minister. You most likely will not be able to sit where you or your family have previously sat in church. Your cooperation with this task is greatly appreciated.

- Please follow all directives given prior to the distribution of communion. When approaching the communion ministers, the communicant is to pull their mask below the chin and present one hand rest on the palm of the other. After responding, “Amen,” the communicant reverently places the Eucharist in his or her mouth and immediately replaces their mask.

- At the conclusion of Mass, dismissal will be in an **orderly fashion.** You will be asked to wait in your pew until dismissed by an usher or hospitality minister. When being dismissed, please exit out of the west parking lot doors – and immediately out to your vehicle. Keep in mind that six feet of social distancing must be maintained at all times. This will prevent the congregating of persons in church during the dismissal.

- If you require use of the elevator entrance near the West Blvd entrance of the church, please proceed to that entrance and you will be greeted by an usher or hospitality minister; the same applies when leaving/exiting church.
- Your bulletin and/or worship aid should go with you and not left in the pew when you leave. Recycling receptacles will be available at the exit for any and all paper that you wish to dispose of.
- The offertory procession is suspended for the time being. If you have offertory envelopes or monetary donations to St. Ignatius of Antioch, secured collection boxes will be available at the exiting doors.
- Congregational and choral singing at public liturgies has been suspended in the Diocese of Cleveland. Congregational **singing** has been shown to drastically increase the chance of spreading the coronavirus. Music will be limited to instrumental music prior to Mass, offertory, communion and postlude. All psalms, acclamations, and orations in the liturgy will be spoken.
- Mass will look, sound, and feel different for a few weeks.

Again, individuals who are in high-risk categories are strongly encouraged not to attend Mass at this time. Likewise anyone feeling sick or experiencing symptoms should stay home. Being in a sacred space does not make us immune to disease. So, please consider your safety and the safety of others.

As, the pandemic is not over, attending Mass comes with the risk of contracting the coronavirus. It is understandable if you do not yet feel safe coming to Church.

As has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic, the general dispensation from the Sunday and holy day obligation continues per the bishops of the Ohio Catholic Conference.

As we enter the “regathering” phase in our parish communities across the Diocese of Cleveland and at St. Ignatius of Antioch, we ask for your cooperation in all of these guidelines as we begin welcoming parishioners and community members back into the physical church space. There will be challenges and frustrations. But, the last thing that anyone wants is to cause the illness or death of their priest or a fellow parishioner, or to contribute to a resurgence of the disease that may cause public worship to be suspended again.

You may also read other helpful information for the faithful across the Diocese of Cleveland online in the Forward in Christ web portal:

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/forward-with-christ/worship-guidelines>

Please continue to watch your email and social media accounts in the coming days for more information from St. Ignatius of Antioch as we engage in this process.

In Christ, Our Hope,

Fr. Kevin E. Estabrook
Pastor

Sister Dianne Piunno, SND
Pastoral Associate

Jason R. Lewis
Director of Music