

Notre Dame Covid19 Liturgy Update

Notre Dame

As we enter the second year of the pandemic, Notre Dame continues to practice safe measures to keep people from contracting Covid-19. The church is sanitized after each liturgy; social distancing is still required, and parishioners must wear masks at all times on church property.

Recently, progress has been made against the virus. More people are being vaccinated; church capacity has increased; and Notre Dame has a large open worship space with over six feet around the ambo/ lectern and altar. As a result, there are some things that will be changing - **and others remaining the same** -to the liturgical practices at Notre Dame. These changes are in compliance with the Archdiocesan Directives for liturgy during Covid-19. Please see below for details.

Parishioners

All parishioners should register for Mass each weekend on the parish website or call the parish office, including the 12 noon outdoor Mass. At Masses in the church, parishioners must enter the building through the parish center. At the end of Mass, they may exit through any door. **Regardless of whether Mass is inside or outside, all parishioners must wear masks and practice social distancing when attending Mass.** At Communion time, parishioners will continue to receive Communion in the hand, lower their masks to consume the host, then replace their masks before being seated.

Opening and Closing Processions on Sundays

At the weekend Masses, the priest and deacon will now process into and out of church. They will enter and exit via the main aisle. If there is an usher who is willing, the priest (and deacon) may be led by the cross. The clergy and cross bearer must wear masks in procession. No other ministers, **including lectors**, will process in or out of the church at this time. If there is a deacon, he carries the Book of the Gospels in the procession. If there is no deacon, the Book of the Gospels is placed on the altar before Mass. **The priest should not carry in the Book of the Gospels.** The priest will greet people exiting after Mass. Please continue social distancing and avoid physical contact.

Lectors and Cantors

The following applies to all lectors and cantors:

- They must wear masks when they are in the church.
- They do not have to wear masks when reading/singing at the ambo/lectern.
- If the lector/cantor chooses not to wear a mask when reading/singing, the mask should be removed upon entering the ambo/lectern and replaced prior to exiting.
- Lectors/cantors may continue to wear masks when reading/singing if they wish to do so.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

All ministers of communion (and clergy) must sanitize their hands **AFTER** they themselves consume Communion and **BEFORE** they distribute to the assembly.

Clergy

As stated in Archdiocesan policy, priests do not have to wear masks except:

- They must wear masks when processing in or out of church.
- They must wear masks when preaching outside the ambo and giving out communion.
- When a priest is saying Mass without a mask, there must be a cover over the hosts being consecrated at the altar.
- They may wear masks at all other times in the liturgy.

Deacons must wear masks during the liturgy, but they may remove their masks to proclaim the gospel and when preaching from the ambo.

All

It still needs to be noted that even with precautions in place, it is still possible to contract Covid 19 in church. All liturgical ministers should be aware that as parishioners return to Mass, some are experiencing fear and anxiety. There are also parishioners who have underlying health conditions which add to their apprehension. It is important that all ministers comply with these directives in order to insure the safety of all those attending parish liturgies.