

Covid Guidance Update at St. Joseph the Worker Shrine

5 September 2021

*****Best Practices in the light of the ominous rise of the Delta Variant*****

Masks are **highly recommended** as a very effective means of reducing the spread of the virus especially for those who are at greater risk:

the unvaccinated, the immunocompromised, children

~ especially true in large indoor gatherings, like Mass

~ this may become MANDATORY*in the coming days and weeks?

*Christian charity should drive us to follow this practice

Vaccination is urged as the best means to curb the virus and keep our families safe.

Social distancing spaces among the pews are provided in the Shrine and **reserved** for those who need or wish to observe this safety protocol (**masks**)

~ these sections are marked-off with **blue directional arrows**

~ please respect these designated and reserved spaces.

Offertory donations for each Mass will continue to be placed in hampers at the Shrine exits

~ instead of circulating a collection basket through the aisles

Hand sanitizing upon entering and exiting the Shrine continues to be a wise practice

Disinfecting “fogging” of the worship space will take place at the end of every day

~ instead of sanitizing every pew after every Mass

~ deemed more effective and less damaging to furnishings

Holy Water in touchless dispensers is available at Shrine entrances

Holy Communion

Communion Procession will continue single-file down the main aisle

with folks returning to their pews by the side aisles

~ this to avoid unnecessarily brushing-up against one another

Ministers who distribute **Holy Communion** will continue to wear face masks and always sanitize their hands before/after distribution

Please continue to reverently (slight bow) **receive Holy Communion**

in the **small Throne** created by **cupping one hand over the other**.

This traditional practice also best safeguards the well-being of fellow worshippers by eliminating any perilous cross-contact with others.

Those who would receive **Communion on their tongue** will need to position themselves at the **end** of the Communion Procession since the Minister needs to sanitize his/her hands after coming into contact with the tongue of each person receiving Communion this way