

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate Pentecost, traditionally known as the “birthday” of the Church. Since we tend to give each other gifts on our birthdays, let me present to you a great gift: the COVID-related restrictions are being eased tremendously! Please read the following information *carefully*, as this is not simply a matter of “going back to the way everything was before.”

God bless you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Joseph Cocucci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rev." written in a smaller, more formal script.

Father Joseph Cocucci, KHS

CONSOLIDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2021
Digested for Customized Use at St. John Neumann Parish

Dispensation from Obligation to Attend Sunday Mass

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass issued by Bishop Malooly on March 12, 2020 remains in place for the Diocese of Wilmington. The 9:00 Sunday morning Mass will continue to be livestreamed, along with the Monday, Tuesday and Friday morning Masses.

Effective Immediately: No More Reservations Needed

It is no longer necessary to make a reservation for Masses at SJN. Thank you for your patience and cooperation with the system over the course of the past year.

Effective Immediately: Mask Guidance

Fully vaccinated people can attend Mass and other activities at St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church (*hereafter SJN*) without wearing a mask or physically distancing. Fully vaccinated means: “2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.”

People who are not vaccinated are required to cover their mouth and nose with a mask. SJN will not be requiring people to show proof of vaccination; please act responsibly, realizing that if you are not vaccinated you may pose a health risk to others.

Any fully vaccinated person who wishes to continue to wear a mask is welcome to do so.

Effective Immediately: Various Considerations

People who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to the virus within 10 days are not permitted to enter the church. Anyone who does not feel well should not come to church.

The Exchange of Peace is hereby reinstated, although physical contact is allowed only among family members; others can exchange the peace by a smile, a wave, or a slight bow, thus avoiding physical contact. Keep in mind that holding hands during the recitation of the Lord's Prayer – an inappropriate gesture at that moment – was abandoned in the Diocese of Wilmington last year and is not to take place during Mass.

The distribution of the Precious Blood to the laity remains suspended until further notice.

At this time, the Diocese asks that choirs neither rehearse nor sing until further notice.

Effective Immediately: Holy Water

Holy Water is available in the Gathering Space in the large Holy Water vessel. Feel welcome to bring your small Holy Water bottle and fill it from the spigot on the vessel. Within a few weeks new Holy Water dispensers will be installed near the entrances to the church. These are motion sensitive. You'll place your hands under the device and Holy Water will be dispensed onto your fingers. This eliminates the need to dip your fingers into a bowl that might have been contaminated by someone else.

Effective 5 June 2021: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Beginning the weekend of 5/6 June (The Solemnity of Corpus Christi) Confessions will be heard before the Saturday Vigil Mass, from 3:00 PM until 3:45 PM, in the Reconciliation Room. As always, Confession by appointment remains available.

Effective 5 June 2021: Restrooms

Beginning the weekend of 5/6 June (The Solemnity of Corpus Christi) the restrooms will be available once more. Restrooms should be used before or after Mass (not during Mass) except in case of emergency. Children under 12 may not leave church to go to the restroom unless accompanied by a parent.