

Who should come to Mass?

You are not obligated to attend Mass. You simply need to keep holy the Lord's Day by praying the Mass online/TV, making a spiritual communion, or spending time in other forms of prayer. We will be livestreaming Masses from St. Andrew's. Due to internet limitations at St. Mathias, we will record and post those Masses.

The diocese strongly encourages those over 65 and those with pre-existing health conditions to stay home and avoid public gatherings, including church.

Do not come to church if you are sick, coughing, are experiencing a sore throat, fever, shortness of breath, if you have been exposed to a sick person, or if you are caring for someone who is sick.

What should I do before I come to Mass?

Please self-screen before leaving your home. Ask yourself "Am I feeling well?" and "Do I have a cough?" You might take your temperature. If it exceeds 100° F, please stay home.

We highly encourage you to bring and properly wear your own face covering (mask) following the guidelines established by the CDC. The Minnesota Bishops strongly encourage everyone who enters the church to wear a mask. Masks help protect you and keep you from spreading an illness you do not know you have yet. Masks cannot be placed on children under 2 years of age.

What can I expect when I arrive?

Please come early. At St. Mathias, come through either entrance. At St. Andrew's, enter through the main entrance off the parking lot, moving through the Social Hall to the Church. Be aware of others as you enter, exit, and move about the church. Social distance from others. Clean your hands with sanitizer as you come in. Please do not socialize while in the church building.

Restrooms will be available for use. Hand washing guidelines are posted.

What should I bring?

Masks or face coverings are recommended, but not required. Hand sanitizer is available at the Church, or you can bring your own. All hymnals and missalettes have been removed from the pews. You may wish to bring a worship aid such as a Magnificat.

What will change with the Mass?

The essential qualities of the Mass will remain the same, but there will be adjustments. Since singing is the fastest way to spread the virus, there will be no congregational singing at this time.

Collection baskets will be placed at the entrances of the churches for you to use as you enter. Electronic giving is also available (<https://www.blccsouth.org/giving>)

Will I be able to receive communion?

Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing. Those who wish to receive will process up the center aisle, keeping social distancing. As you leave the pew, those who wish to receive Communion will process to the front, but those who wish to leave without receiving Communion may depart immediately by exiting to the back of the church via the center aisle. Practice social distancing as you leave.

Those who process forward for Communion pull down their mask, remove any gloves, sanitize their hands, and step forward to receive. All other communicants will follow. After receiving, return to your pew for prayer and reflection or exit via the side aisle.

For those who return to the pews, there will be a prayer and a blessing for all who have received Holy Communion.