

**Church of the Holy Trinity  
122 Vliet Boulevard  
Cohoes, New York 12047**

[www.holytrinitycohoes.org](http://www.holytrinitycohoes.org)

(518) 237-2373

July 8, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As you are likely aware, we joyfully resumed the celebration of public liturgies just a few weeks ago. Many of you have joined with your fellow parishioners for communal worship, and have graciously abided by the health and safety procedures currently required in all public spaces due to ongoing concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so grateful for the opportunity to gather again to celebrate our common bond in and as the Body of Christ, and truly appreciate your spirit of cooperation as we all adjust to this new environment.

Since we are subject to both State-issued and Diocesan-directed guidelines for public gatherings, it is likely that adjustments in our procedures will evolve over time. For this, we humbly ask for your continued patience. Although re-opening has proceeded relatively well, a few reminders of the requirements to attend public liturgies may be helpful, which includes the following:

- Social Distancing must be observed at all times and as such, this limits the seating capacity in church. To ensure your participation at Mass, it is recommended that you call the parish office no later than Noon on Thursdays to let us know which Mass you plan to attend. This is required each week. Walk-ins are welcome to the extent the maximum capacity is not exceeded, but are asked to wait to be seated until those with “reserved seating” have arrived.
- If necessary, overflow attendance will be accommodated in the parish center, where the Mass will be viewed via livestream, and Communion will be distributed by a Eucharistic Minister.
- A mask must be worn upon entering the church (or parish center) and throughout the Mass, except for the moment the Precious Body is consumed during Holy Communion.
- Each attendee is required to check in at the door, and to attest to their health, as well as to not having been in contact with anyone who is sick with COVID-19. (The paper questionnaire we collected in the first few weeks will not be required beginning the weekend of July 18-19).
- Entry to church is only at the front door (Vliet Boulevard), with the side door (Rectory driveway) used only for those with physical limitations.

- Everyone is asked to use the hand sanitizer available at each check-in location before being seated. We also encourage bringing your own bottle, if possible, and to sanitize your hands before receiving Holy Communion.
- Each attendee is escorted to a pew by an usher according to where they parked, i.e., those who park in the parish center lot or on St. Marie Lane are seated on the left; and those who park in the Vliet Boulevard lot or along Simmons Ave. are seated on the right. Pews will be filled from the front (near Sanctuary steps) to the back of the church.
- All communicants are strongly encouraged to receive the Precious Body in the hand. Those who still wish to receive on the tongue may do so, however, they must receive from the minister designated for this purpose.
- Dismissal is guided by ushers, one pew at a time, with exits corresponding to seating, i.e., from the side door for those seated on the left; and from the front door (Vliet Boulevard) for those seated on the right.

Remember that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place, so those who are vulnerable or even simply uncomfortable attending a public liturgy are encouraged to remain at home and view our Masses (both the 4 PM Vigil and the 9 AM) via livestream on our Facebook page, or as an archived recording on our You Tube channel.

Please know that all changes and updates will be communicated through the weekly bulletin, the parish website, email, MyParish App and Facebook. If you have an email address that you wish to share, but you are not routinely receiving email from the parish, that means we either do not have an email address on file for you, or are using your former address. Please call the parish office, or send an email to [htpparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:htpparishoffice@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience to provide this to us, or with any questions.

We look forward to the days when we can all safely gather without restrictions, and in the meantime, we ask for God's peace and abundant blessings on each of you and your families.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Cronin and Staff