

Guidelines for returning to church

As we prepare to reopen churches, please be aware of the following guidelines. We recognize that they may be awkward/uncomfortable and contrary to our culture of hospitality and community. In working to foster a safe environment for all, we thank you in advance for your patience and co-operation.

Before coming to church:

- Please check temperature of all family members before coming to church. If any family members have a fever, please remain home for the health and safety of all. Consult your family doctor.
- If you exhibit any of the following symptoms, please remain home at this time – cough, fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, headache, runny nose, sore throat, chills with shakes.

Arriving at church:

- Maintain physical distancing at all times – 2 metres (6 feet) from others – in the parking lot, church entrance and in the church itself.
- Upon arrival, put on a mask/face covering before entering the church (for all those over the age of 3).
- Entering the church will be through the side door only. Follow direction of volunteers.
- Sanitize hands upon entry and regularly whenever possible.
- Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Once capacity is reached, no other person will be allowed in the church, following the guidelines from the Ontario Government.
- The Cardinal has given a dispensation from the Sunday obligation for the duration of the pandemic, for those who can't physically enter the church, or those who need to stay away because they are immune compromised, seniors or those who are concerned about being in a large gathering.
- The Sunday Mass at 10:30am will continue to be live-streamed.
- Pews will be marked to note physical distancing requirements. Families and households living at the same residence may sit together; the same 2 metre (6ft.) distance should be maintained concerning others. Follow direction of ushers for seating.

- Pews will be emptied of prayer books, hymnals etc. Parish bulletins will not be published at this time.
- The Baptismal font will be empty and not in use for this time, for blessing yourself.

Celebration of the Eucharist:

- Please listen carefully to announcements before the start of Mass. Follow direction as advised.
- Other than a cantor there will be no singing at Mass until further notice.
- There will be no offertory procession or collection. Please leave donation in the designated container, in the middle of the Narthex upon entry/departure as directed.
- We ask that people do not hold hands or shake hands during any portion of the celebration of the Eucharist. At the Sign of Peace, a nod or bow to others is appropriate.
- Masks/face coverings should be removed prior to the reception of Holy Communion and put back on after consumption.
- During this time of pandemic and under the guidance of local medial health officials, the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand by placing one on top of the other, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to safely place the Body of Christ in one's hand without contact.
- Follow direction of ushers for communion flow ensuring physical distancing at all times.
- Follow directions provided for dismissal and departure - exiting is through the front doors only.
- Following Mass, please depart the church so that cleaning may commence. While it is our nature to congregate/socialize in the foyer or parking lot, we ask you NOT to do so at this time. Please maintain physical distancing.

General:

- If you suddenly feel ill, start coughing or sneezing, please leave the church for the health and safety of others gathered.
- If possible, bring your own pocket sanitizer as well.
- Please use washrooms only if absolutely necessary. One person or family at a time should be in the washroom. Ensure that all wash their hands with warm,

soapy water after using washroom facilities. Please respect physical distancing outside the washroom.

- If, within 14 days of attending Mass, you learn that you or someone in your family who attended Mass with you has tested positive for COVID-19, you are asked to : a) contact the Ontario Public Health Authority; and b) contact the parish office. Your identity will not be revealed to anyone other than the Public Health Authority, and only to ensure that any spread is contained.
- When you make visits to the church during the week or attend daily Masses, please make sure to sanitize your hands before and after. The parish is doing its best, but we all must take responsibility in this regard.