

July 2, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Happy Independence Day weekend! This is a friendly reminder on a couple of our “Return to Mass” guidelines from Bishop Powers.

RETURN TO MASS GUIDELINES AND DIRECTIVES

1. Attendance is limited to a maximum of 25% of total occupancy as established by the local municipality with the proper 6-foot social distancing between persons not living in the same household unless a local authority has implemented a more stringent order. Ushers or other volunteers must be instructed not to let more people than the calculated number of people enter. Parishes may want to use some-kind of a pre-registration to aid in this.
2. All participants are asked to wear masks. Ushers, greeters, and other volunteers **MUST** wear masks and the wearing of gloves is highly recommended. The 6-foot social distancing rule **MUST** be maintained. **PLEASE DO NOT REFUSE ENTRY TO A MASS ATTENDEE WITHOUT A MASK**, but it’s ok to seat them further away from others and remind them of the risk to you / your priest ... **THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT PRIEST.**
3. Hand sanitizer must be available at all entrances and exits. It should also be available for people to sanitize their hands just prior to receiving the Eucharist.
4. Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion **MUST** wear masks and sanitize their hands immediately before and after distributing Holy Communion. They must also sanitize their hands immediately after coming in contact with a communicant, before distributing to the next person.
5. Communicants are to leave their masks (and gloves) on until they are about to receive the Eucharist. Gloves, if worn, must be removed before receiving the host.
6. Communion will be distributed in the hand only. **AGAIN, COMMUNION SHOULD NOT BE REFUSED ON TONGUE BUT A PRE-MASS OR PRE-COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RISK TO THE PRIEST OF MOUTH TO HAND CONTACT IS THE BASIS FOR THIS PRECAUTION ... THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT PRIEST.**
7. If the minister of Holy Communion makes inadvertent contact with a communicant, they must purify their hands before distributing to the next person.

Please have a healthy and relaxing holiday weekend, and may the blessing of our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit come down upon you and remain with you forever.