

Guidelines and Procedures for Public Mass at SSPPC

We are excited to announce to you our gradual plans for the public celebration of sacraments here in our parish! Below are the three phases that will begin our journey to celebrating the sacraments together again. Please read carefully as there are several adjustments and things to keep in mind as we go forward.

- **Remember that the Sunday obligation is dispensed for everybody until the feast of the Assumption on August 15th. This means that you can attend Mass and services here but you are under no obligation to do so.** Please be smart and safe, if you are over the age of 65, feel sick, or have a pre-existing health condition we strongly encourage you not to attend Mass or services at this time. If you have tested positive for COVID -19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 please do not come to church until you are released to do so by a health professional. Remember these guidelines are not just for your own safety but for the safety of other people around you.
- **These plans will contain a lot of trial and error.** Please be patient as we figure out what works best for our community and make improvements.
- **Consistent and constant cleaning of the Church is the key to keeping it open.** Please be attentive to washing your hands, bringing/using sanitizer, wearing masks when possible. We will have masks available for those who do not have one. Cleaning teams are being assembled to assist with the cleaning and disinfecting of the church in between services; if you are interested in assisting please contact the parish office.

Phase 1: Monday, June 1st - Monday, June 15th

Confessions –Monday, June 1st: 4:00-5:00 p.m. - Confessions will be located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Penitents should enter from the cathedral as the previous person leaves. Most of the time there will be a hospitality minister assisting with rotation of penitents, so that only one person is in the chapel at the time. Penitents will enter the Blessed Sacrament Chapel from the alcove near the wood crucifix in the cathedral and exit through the door near the piano in the chapel. All persons coming for confession are strongly encouraged to wear masks and wait in the cathedral for your turn.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: One, to monitor rotation of penitents.

Weekday Masses – June 1-5

- Weekday Masses will begin on June 1. Entrance to the church will be through the center Meridian Street door only. Please sit only in the designated spaces and follow the guidelines of volunteers who will be there to assist.

- Chairs will be spaced in singles, doubles, triples, and a few quadruples. Please sit in groups only with members of your household. If you are there alone, please sit in a single or a double chair and leave groups of chairs for family groups.
- Hand sanitizer and masks will be available at each entrance. Those coming for prayer are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: One to monitor the door to assist with people being in the church

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, cleaning supplies

Phase 2 - Resuming the Sunday Mass schedule – June 6th & 7th

- Sunday Masses will resume on June 6th (Saturday evening) and June 7. All Masses will be held in the main church to allow for appropriate social distancing.
- Entrance to the church will be through the center Meridian Street door only.
- Attendance at Mass will need to be limited in accordance with the archdiocesan guidelines. These guidelines will likely change over time.
- **An online sign-up form for Masses will be sent to parishioners via email. You may also sign up to attend a Mass by calling the parish office.**
 - **Do not attend Mass if you have or have recently had any symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19.**
- Wearing a mask and bringing hand sanitizer is highly encouraged. Hand sanitizer and masks will also be available at the entrance.
- At Masses for Sunday, worship aids will be placed on the seats for your use. They will not be reused. Following Mass, boxes will be available to dispose of worship aids, or you may take them home.
- Chairs will be spaced in singles, doubles, triples and quadruples. Please sit in groups only with members of your household. If you are attending alone, please sit in a single or a double chair and leave groups of chairs for household groups.
- Use of the restroom is discouraged and should be only for emergencies. One person at a time may use the restroom. Outside restroom doors will be propped open during Mass times. Please enter the restroom only if it is empty.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Two hospitality ministers, lector, cantor

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Hand sanitizer, masks, baskets for worship aid distribution, baskets for offertory collection, boxes for worship aid disposal, gloves, cleaning supplies

GUIDELINES DURING MASS

- Several usual aspects of the Mass **will be omitted**, including:
 - The use of altar servers
 - The use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (unless no deacon is present)
 - Passing of the collection basket at offertory (baskets will be set out for donations)
 - Bread and wine being brought forward by members of congregation at offertory
 - Holding hands during the Lord's Prayer
 - The Sign of Peace
 - The offering of a blessing for those not receiving Holy Communion
 - Offering of the Precious Blood from the cup during communion
- During Mass
 - Refrain from physical contact, including handshakes and hugs.
 - Use of personal hand sanitizer prior to the reception of Holy Communion is encouraged.
 - Masks should be removed and left on chairs prior to proceeding forward for Holy Communion and be put back on upon returning to one's seat.
 - Hospitality ministers will direct congregation forward for communion, maintaining a distance of 6' between each person in line. During the distribution of Holy Communion, one side of the church will come forward first, followed by the other side. Communicants should proceed up the center aisle and return to their seats by way of the side aisles.
 - We encourage you to receive Holy Communion in your hand. If you prefer to receive Holy Communion on your tongue, please come forward at the end of the communion line.
- At the end of Mass
 - Please maintain social distancing of 6' when leaving the church building.

IF YOU ATTEND MASS AT SS. PETER AND PAUL CATHEDRAL AND LATER DEVELOP A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.