

Guidelines for Being Present at the Holy Mass in the Coronavirus Pandemic Period



We Are a Church of Mercy
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



Thank you for considering participation in the weekend or daily Mass. Your presence, whether in person or online, is Spirit-filled.

As you know, there will be many aspects of the liturgy that will not seem “normal” to any of us.

At St. Joseph's, please be aware that most people participating in Mass will be participating online so you'll notice the presider and lector sometimes looking over your head at the cameras. Please know you may also appear on camera. We continue to offer live streaming.

We outline here what you can expect and the guidelines we ask you to adhere to when on site for the protection of yourself, the others you encounter, and our priests. Feel free to be in touch with any questions in advance.

To prepare to attend:

1. Bring a face covering cloth or mask; **masks are required** from the time you exit your car in the parking lot until you return to your car. (This also applies for private prayer in church).
2. Bring your own hand sanitizer to use before receiving Holy Communion.
3. Please do not congregate in the church building.

When you arrive:

4. **Please see a staff member or hospitality member for assistance.**
5. We encourage online giving, but you can deposit your envelope for either parish in the box or basket as you walk in the door. We may not take up a collection.
6. Please sanitize your hands at a hand sanitizing station at the entrance.
7. **You will be directed to a seat in church**, seating from the front to back.

During Mass:

8. Generally, there will be no congregational singing; masks must always be worn.
9. We may not have physical contact at the Sign of Peace or Lord's prayer.
10. **When approaching for Communion, please follow the directions of the staff or hospitality volunteers present.** Remain six feet apart from others, observing the markings on the floor.

11. After the priest says, 'The Body of Christ' and you say, 'Amen,' approach the priest, stopping an arm's length from him. Once you have received Communion in your hands, walk at least six feet away from the priest before lowering your mask to receive the host, and return to your pew via the side aisle. The Eucharist will be offered in the form of the Body of Christ only. Please receive in your hands.
12. You are not obligated to receive communion at Mass if you are not comfortable doing so. If you do not go up in the Communion line, please step out of the pew and back away to allow others to return to the pew with minimal contact.

Going forth from Mass:

13. At the end of the Mass, the presider and deacon will go directly to the sacristy. We will assist you in exiting the Church with minimal contact with others.
14. Private prayer is not available right after daily Mass to facilitate immediate cleaning and sanitizing of pews and restrooms, but the church will be open later for private prayer.
15. Please go directly to your vehicles when you depart.

*Thank you for your understanding and cooperation
as we work our way through this phased re-opening process.
We look forward to your feedback.*