

SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND PARISH – LOWELL, MA

Protocols for Attending Mass

REQUIREMENTS OF ALL MASS ATTENDEES

- Masks must always be worn.
- Social Distancing must always be observed.
- Follow the guidance and directions of the Ushers upon arrival/during/departure of Mass.
- Hand Sanitizer station(s) will be available in vestibule.
- Temperature will be taken as you enter the church. Anyone with a temp above 100.04 may not come inside.

PROTOCOLS FOR ARRIVING TO MASS

- Seating will begin 20 minutes prior, and end 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start of Mass.
- Before exiting your car, please put on your face mask.
- Face masks are required to be worn throughout the Mass.
- There will be two entrances for use:
 - Main entrance near handicap ramp and wooden door off the side walkway.
- Please, practice social distancing of 6 feet as you approach and wait in line.
- Volunteers will be inside the vestibule to welcome you and guide you to the registration table where you will “check in”.
- Ushers will be seating everyone; follow their lead to your designated pew. Choosing where you would like to sit, unfortunately, cannot be allowed.
- Pews have been marked for social distancing, allowing all to remain 6 feet apart from others in your pew, as well as in front and behind you.
- Members of the same household are permitted to sit together and are not required to follow the 6-foot distancing rule.
- Offertory Basket will be at the entrance to the Church in the vestibule. Please consider making your offering on your way in.
- Seating will end 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start of Mass. Doors will be closed and latecomers will NOT be allowed to enter.
- Pew markers are used to indicate which pews are occupied.

PROTOCOLS TO BE FOLLOWED DURING CELEBRATION OF MASS

- The congregation is NOT to sing.
- Baskets will not be passed at the Offertory. Your offering may be placed in a designated receptacle as you enter or exit the church. We strongly encourage online giving.
- There will be no invitation to extend the Sign of Peace.

COMMUNION PROCESSION RITUAL

- For those not familiar with our Communion Procession, the most important thing we ask of those receiving Communion is that you **DO NOT EXIT YOUR PEW** until invited to do so by a **Volunteer Guide**, who will direct you to come forward in a single line through the Center Aisle. Please, observe the 6 feet Social Distancing regulation identified by the “blue tape” floor markings.
- You will proceed to the Eucharistic Minister on the side where your pew is located. The host will be dropped into your hands.
- Then you will walk to the “Blue Tape” floor marking 6 feet from the Eucharistic Minister and there you will lower your mask, consume the Eucharist, put the mask back in place and return to your pew by the side aisle.
- When the Communion Procession has ended, the Eucharistic Ministers will go through the church to offer Communion to anyone whose hand is raised indicating that you wish to receive.

PROTOCOL AT THE END OF MASS

- Mass Dismissal will begin after the Final Blessing. **The most important thing we ask is that you follow the guidance of our Exit Guides.**
- Exit will begin with people in pews nearest the main entrance of the church.
- Bulletins will be distributed as you leave the church.
- As you leave the pew, form a single line, follow the 6 feet Social Distancing regulation and continue to do so outside of the church.
- Please, keep in mind that congregating for social purposes on church grounds, including the parking lot, before and after Mass is not permitted. And we thank you for respecting this protocol.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- If you are not receiving Constant Contact email communication from the parish at least twice weekly, that would be because we do not have an email address for you in our registered parishioners data base. So please call the rectory to register or to provide your email address to us.