

## Guidelines and Safety Measures for Liturgies

Effective July 25, 2020

You, as a parishioner at St. Patrick's, are our greatest gift! Your well-being is a major concern as we move through this unusual time of COVID-19. Please understand that we are looking out for each member, while helping to meet their religious needs, and encouraging all to remain safe. Groups are now permitted to gather for, while maintaining appropriate social distancing. **The Archbishop's dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day obligation remains in effect should you need to stay home.** Outside of what is detailed below, the restrictions in effect prior to June 1st remain. Please note that these guidelines may change at any time, and we will do our best to communicate details as this happens.

### **A. People Who Should Not Attend Liturgies:**

1. The following should be encouraged to stay at home:
  - a. Elderly;
  - b. People with underlying medical conditions;
  - c. Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk;
  - d. People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions;
  - e. People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
  - f. People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms;
  - g. People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19;
  - h. People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

### **B. Mass Time Changes**

1. Mass times will be changed temporarily to the following to allow for cleaning between Masses:
  - a. Sunday 8:00 am, 5:00 pm. Masks will be required at these two Masses. If you do not have a mask, we will have disposable masks available for you.
  - b. Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am. Masks are highly recommended for these two Masses. If you do not have a mask, we will have disposable masks available for you.
  - c. If the 10:00 am Mass fills to capacity in the church, we will open the gym for a separate Mass to be held at the same time.
2. Additional Mass opportunities will be offered:
  - a. Monday through Friday at 8:15 am. (Please, watch the bulletin and website for more information regarding morning daily Masses once school starts, August 13<sup>th</sup>.)
  - b. As needed, we may add additional weekday evening Masses.
  - c. Parishioners are encouraged to attend Masses during the week to help alleviate large numbers at any of the Masses or to avoid being

turned away if Mass is full. We anticipate seating approximately 220 people at every Mass.

3. St. Patrick's will continue to Facebook Livestream the Saturday evening Mass and the Monday through Friday Daily Masses. Each will be posted later on the Parish website for those who unable to attend.

### **C. Social Distancing and Seating**

1. Ushers or staff will assist with directing people to pews before, dismissing after Mass and sanitizing doors and pews after each Mass.
2. Seating will be arranged such that six feet of distance can be maintained between parties.
  - a. Ushers will seat people in every other row of pews, with six feet in all directions from other parties.
  - b. A "party" will include members of a household who live together and therefore may be seated together in the house of worship, but should maintain a social distance from other parties.
3. St. Patrick's will be requiring all ushers and EMHC's to wear masks.
4. Children will stay with their families. There will be no Liturgy of the Word for Children. (Watch the bulletin and website for additional information regarding future live streaming of Liturgy of the Word for Children.)
5. Families should maintain appropriate distance before and after liturgies.
6. The collection baskets and any other materials will not be passed from person-to-person. Collection receptacles (baskets) will be stationed near the narthex doors rather than ushers passing baskets.
7. We removed all songbooks and missals. We will have no congregational singing at this time. Not all Masses will have music.

### **D. Distribution of Holy Communion**

1. Communion will continue to be via the Sacred Host and not the Precious Blood as we have been doing since the flu season began.
2. The priests, deacons and EMHC's will bring Communion to attendees in their pews. There will not be a line to the front as usual to allow maintaining the six feet distancing of everyone.
3. If you are uncomfortable receiving Communion, that is fine. You may cross your arms across your chest, so the priest or EMHC is aware of your wishes.

### **E. Types of Gatherings**

1. As always, priority will be given to the Sacred Liturgy, so all forms of public liturgy in churches are permitted with the given regulations and approved scheduling.

2. All other parish and school activities remain restricted and will be handled on a case by case basis. This includes after-Mass gatherings such as coffee and rolls, funeral luncheons, wedding receptions, etc.
3. As we get closer to school starting, St. Patrick's priority will be Masses, faith formation opportunities for all parishioners, children attending school, and children's ability to attend Religious Formation (RF)
4. Any St. Patrick's community group meetings and activities (i.e. choir, parish council, athletics, scouts, clubs, etc.) need prior approval, and need to be done in a socially distanced or Zoom-like virtual way.