

Saint Joseph Parish - Woonsocket, RI
Directives for Resuming the Public Celebration of Mass in time of COVID-19

General Consideration

- Catholics will continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice.
- Those who have underlying health conditions, are elderly, are fearful, or feel uncomfortable coming to Mass **should stay home**.
- Access to Mass will be limited to 25% of the capacity specified by fire code. This means only **120 people** will be allowed in Saint Joseph Church per Mass.
- All commonly used surfaces (door knobs, the tops of pews, etc.) will be sanitized after every Mass by a volunteer wearing gloves and a face mask. The faithful are encouraged to **bring their own hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes** with them to Mass to wipe down the pews themselves.

Arriving at Mass

- When arriving at the church, please enter **only through the main driveway entrance**. The rectory entrance will be closed and roped off.
- When you pull into the parking lot, please **stop at the checkpoint** and speak to the volunteer who will count the number of people in your car and remind you to bring your face mask with you into church.
- **Only the front doors** of the church and the **handicapped ramp door** will be unlocked. Parishioners should enter, if they are physically able, by the front doors.
- Please sanitize your hands upon entering at the stations in the vestibule of the Church.
- **Face masks should be worn in the church at all times.**
- Some pews will be sectioned off. Please observe proper spatial distancing in the church at all times. Families who live in the same home may sit together.
- Windows and doors will remain open so that fresh air may circulate in the church.
- There will be no passing the collection basket. **Those who would like to leave a budget envelope or donation should deposit them in the basket located at the front doors of the church when they enter.**
- Once the capacity of our church has reached 120 persons, the parking lot entrance will be roped off and cars will no longer be able to enter. A red sign will be placed in the front of the church signifying that Mass is full and parishioners should attend the next Mass.

During Mass

- **Singing**
 - All of the missalettes have been removed from our church.
 - Parishioners should be reminded that one of the ways Christ is made present to his Church is when God's Word is *proclaimed* at Mass.
 - Due to the risk of aerosolized particles, **singing at Mass is discouraged** and should be very **limited**.
- **Holy Communion**
 - The faithful should be reminded that it is **not necessary to receive Holy Communion** every time you come to Mass. One may remain in their pew and make a spiritual Act of Communion.
 - Holy Communion will be distributed by the priest and **one** Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion only. Both the priest and the EMHC will sanitize their hands before, during (if necessary), and after the distribution of Holy Communion.
 - Likewise, both the priest and the EMHC will wear a mask during the distribution of Holy Communion
 - When leaving your pew, you are once again asked to observe spacial distancing in the Communion line.
 - Please **leave your mask on** until you reach the front of the line and are next to receive Communion. Please then loosen part of your mask, receive Holy Communion from the minister, place the Sacred Host on your tongue, re-secure your mask, and return to your seat.
 - Wearing gloves while receiving Holy Communion is forbidden.
 - The faithful have the right to choose how they receive Holy Communion, either in the hand or on the tongue. **Those who choose to receive on the tongue should come up last in the Communion line.**

Leaving Mass

- To protect the welfare and safety of all of our parishioners, leaving the church after Holy Communion is not allowed.
- After one verse of the closing hymn, the faithful will be dismissed intermittently from the church **by row**. Those who sit in the back of the church will be dismissed first and those sitting in the front of the church will be dismissed last. All parishioners should exit out the front doors only. Volunteers will signal you when it is your row's turn to leave.
- After dismissal, the faithful should proceed directly to their vehicles and exit the parking lot using either the main entrance or the rectory entrance.
- Parishioners **should not congregate in the parking lot or in the church.**
- Thank you in advance for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.

Directives for Readers at Mass

- Readers will be issued a badge signifying that they are a reader at that particular Mass. This will guarantee that even if church capacity reaches 120, they will be allowed to enter.
- The reader should wear a mask at all times **EXCEPT** while reading. Please remove your mask before coming to the Ambo and put your mask on again after returning to your pew.

Directives for Altar Servers

- Altar servers will be issued a badge signifying they are an altar server at that particular Mass. This will guarantee that even if church capacity reaches 120, they will be allowed to enter.
- Servers **must** wash/sanitize their hands as soon as they enter the sacristy.
- Servers **must** wear a mask while they serve.
- For the time being we will only allow **1 server to serve per Mass**. If more than one child from a given family is an altar server, a second sibling may serve. Friends or servers who live in different households may not serve together.
- After Mass, servers **must** again wash their hands before leaving the sacristy.

Directives for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- EMHCs should wear masks at all times.
- At the *Lamb of God*, EMHCs should proceed to the work sacristy and sanitize their hands.
- At each Communion station is a table equipped with hand sanitizer, a small cup of water (called an Ablution Cup), and a towel. If you come in contact with the person receiving Communion's hand or tongue, please do the following:
 - **Place your ciborium on the table securely.**
 - **Dip your fingers in the Ablution Cup to dissolve any particles of the Sacred Host that might be on your fingers.**
 - **Dry your fingers on the towel.**
 - **Sanitize your hands.**
 - **Pick up the ciborium and continue distributing Holy Communion.**
- Once everyone has received Holy Communion, please bring your ciborium back to the altar, wait for Father to take it from you, return to work sacristy to sanitize your hands again, and return to your seat.

Needed Volunteers for Each Mass

Parking Lot Attendant # 1 : Will stand at the front of the church to count the number of people coming to Mass. Once the number reaches 120, he/she will rope off the entrance of the church and place the red sign in front of the church. After Mass, the attendant will unrope the entrance to allow people to exit.

Parking Lot Attendant # 2 : Will stand at the rectory entrance to ensure no one tries to enter by that driveway. After Mass, the attendant will unrope the entrance to allow people to exit.

Collection Basket Attendant : This should be the weekend Sacristan. He will stand at the collection basket to ensure donations are kept secure.

Usher # 1 : Will assist dismissing people at the end of Mass signaling when each row should exit the church, working from the back of the church to the front.

Usher # 2 : (see above)

Usher # 3 : (see above)

Usher # 4 : (see above)

Volunteer Signup Worksheet

Mass Date: _____

Mass Time: _____

Parking Attendant # 1: _____

Parking Attendant # 2: _____

Collection Basket Attendant : Matthew Badeau / Thomas Burke

Usher 1: _____

Usher 2: _____

Usher 3: _____

Usher 4: _____