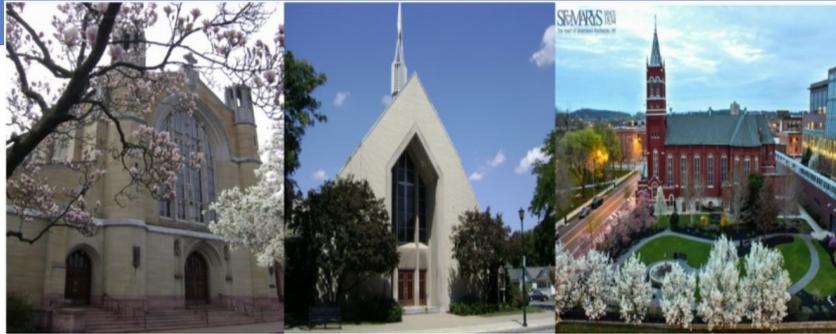


We're welcoming folks back to church! Here is everything you need to know!



As we prepare to open our churches to celebrate Holy Mass, we are doing everything possible to create a safe environment for worship. However, the reality is, that even when we follow all the guidelines and protocols we have been given, there still will be a risk of contracting this terrible disease. Until there is a proven therapy or a vaccine, all people are at risk of exposure to the disease when they come together. Sadly, the most vulnerable among us have a greater risk of serious consequences, if they contract the disease. Please know that your sacrifice in not attending Mass because of your own vulnerability or illness is a gift to others. God knows our longings and loves us for them.

Who is considered vulnerable?

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- ◆ People 65 years and older
- ◆ People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- ◆ People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - ◇ People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - ◇ People who have serious heart conditions
 - ◇ People who are immunocompromised
 - ◇ Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
 - ◇ People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
 - ◇ People with diabetes
 - ◇ People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - ◇ People with liver disease

Although we would love to see each and every one of you when we begin to come together again, the vulnerable among us will need to remain particularly cautious in following the CDC warnings to stay home in order to avoid the close contact that can happen in groups. Remember, Bishop Matano has joined other Bishops in temporarily suspending the obligation for Roman Catholics to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Also, we will continue streaming and making available recordings of Sunday Mass each week. In this time of great challenge, each of us is called to an important ministry – to keep each other safe. We show our love for one another by distancing ourselves from each other for the common good of all. A difficult sacrifice is being asked of us all to protect ourselves and others. May God grant us the grace to do so, and rewards that such a sacrifice merits.

If I am not feeling well, should I stay home? YES!



It should go without saying that those who are sick or who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and not come to church. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19 (*This list does not include all possible symptoms*):

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Headache

We don't want our churches to become hotspots for the spread of disease that leads to a renewed ban on gatherings in church. If you are not feeling well, please err on the side of staying home and being safe. Thanks.

Can I just show up for Mass?

NO!

IF YOU CHOOSE TO RETURN TO MASS:

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION

- For now, Masses will be limited to 25% capacity across the Diocese. In order to maintain the necessary social distancing, we will limit attendance to 75 people at St. Boniface and St. Mary's and 100 people at Blessed Sacrament.
- Because it is impossible to accommodate all our parishioners for Sunday Masses, we are asking parishioners to make a reservation to attend church online before each weekend:

*reservations
required*



Using a computer, go to our email newsletter or website and use the Eventbrite link. The reservation system will let you know immediately how many tickets are available for each Mass, and thus you will be able to determine, if you have secured a reservation. But you will also receive a confirmation email. To help speed access when you come to church for Mass, you should either print a copy of your 'ticket' or send it to your cellphone, so you can call it up and show it to those checking people into church. Reservations for each weekend will open on the Wednesday prior to the weekend at 10:00am and close on Thursday at 3:30pm.

Staff can assist those with computer issues or who do not have a computer. You will need to supply you name, phone number, which Mass you wish to attend, and the number of seats you need:

Contact the parish office from 10:00am, Wednesday to 3:30pm, Thursday.

Via phone: at 585-271-7240, ext. 115. -OR- Via email: rblessed@dor.org

The parish secretary will get back to you to confirm your reservation ASAP.

**NO
COMPUTER
NO
PROBLEM**

Those who show up without a reservation will be placed in a standby line and will be seated only if capacity is not met due to "no-shows.

Okay, my reservations are made... What do I need to know and do?



BEFORE AND AS YOU ARRIVE AT CHURCH

- Wash your hands before you leave home.
- Bring and wear your own face mask. They will not be provided at church. NOTE: children two years of age and up must wear a mask. The cry rooms and nursery are closed.

AT THE CHURCH

- Don't be late as your seats will be given away! Please arrive 20-30 minutes before Mass begins to stand in the check in line at the designated entrance. The process of admitting people to church will begin 45 minutes prior to Mass.
- Please remain six feet apart unless you are coming to Mass with those who live in the same household with you.
- Please print or have your confirmation email pulled up on your phone to show staff when entering. This will help to speed up the process.
- ***If someone arrives without having a reservation – they will be placed in a “standby line.” If there is extra seating available after the start of Mass, they will be granted entrance in place of any “no shows”.***
- Please enter church only through the one door marked “Enter Here”: At St. Boniface and Blessed Sacrament, everyone will enter through the parking lot side door closest to the school building. At St. Mary, everyone will enter through the front door on the side closest to the Mary shrine and Court St.
- Those needing to use the lift or ramp, please inform those at the church entrance for assistance.
- Upon entering the church, you will need to sanitize your hands. Sanitizer will be provided.
- Designated ministers will seat people from front to back, similar to boarding a plane. You will be guided and shown to a designated seat, not stopping to chat with others along the way.



- All seating will be in pews (with cushions removed). There will be no seating in the balconies, narthex (entrance to the church), rocking or other chairs (which have been removed to ease the cleaning and disinfecting process), etc.
- While restrooms will be available, they will only be cleaned and disinfected after each Mass.
- Those who live in the same household may sit together in the same pew without observing distancing between household members.
- Pews have been marked to indicate where seating is permitted; with some pews blocked off to allow for the proper social distancing. In an effort to maximize occupancy, special sections of the pews at Blessed Sacrament and St. Boniface have been marked to accommodate households of only one or two people. Those seated in these sections will be asked to sit in a designated spot along the pew behind pieces of blue tape on the back of the pew or ahead of them in order to maintain adequate social distancing with those in the pews around them.
- You may be sharing a pew with another household, which will require you to be alert and maintain proper social distance (6 feet, about two arms lengths) between the households.
- Please plan to remain seated in your designated place except to receive Holy Communion or visit the restroom. There will **not** be an opportunity to get up and go visit with others seated elsewhere in the church.

Changes during Mass

Miscellaneous items:

- The holy water fonts have been removed or remain empty.
- There will be no sacristans, Mass coordinators, altar servers, or choirs.
- There will be no admittance to the sacristies, even just to drop something off or quickly greet the priest or others. Please no exceptions as this would require additional cleaning and disinfecting.
- Those needing an extremely low gluten host should request one from an “Ambassador” at the check-in station.
- Given the risk posed by aerosolized particles produced by singing, congregational singing is not feasible as we will need to keep our masks on, perhaps we can just hum or sing softly to ourselves, allowing the music to move us internally.
- There will be no holding of hands during the Our Father or shaking hands at the sign of peace.

HOW TO RECEIVE COMMUNION

- We will receive communion only in the hand as an act of charitable consideration for the health of fellow parishioners and those distributing communion.
- Before receiving communion, please use the hand sanitizer that you brought with you to sanitize your hands.
- Those in a given pew will be invited by a designated person to join the procession at the appropriate time, so as to help maintain appropriate social distancing. The center of the aisle will be marked with tape every six feet to help. As we approach the minister of Holy Communion, we will bow, extend our hands, and respond “Amen” as usual. After receiving the host in our hands, we will step a few feet away, only then lower our mask to place the host in our mouth, and then replace our mask before returning to our seat as directed. The Blood of Christ will not be distributed.

MASS DEPARTURE PROCESS



After the final blessing and dismissal, please remain in your pew. Pews will be dismissed by trained and designated ministers in an orderly fashion starting in the rear of the church and then moving forward. This will be similar to how we exit an airplane. You must exit your pew when prompted. Follow the directions to the door(s) used for exiting. Remaining in your pew or the church for private prayer is not available after Mass to allow the church to be clean and disinfected afterwards.

Baskets will not be passed during the offertory. You will be able to place your offering in a collection box as you exit the church, but we strongly encourage online giving. Clergy will greet you outdoors after Mass while observing proper distancing.

Please do not congregate outside, instead taking your leave and being on your way. You will need to keep your mask on until you get in your vehicle or leave church property.



Please pray for God’s grace as we all do our best to keep everyone safe and healthy as we strive to meet the requirements for our return to public Masses in our churches. Working together in a spirit of patience and cooperation will help us to keep our churches from becoming hotspots for the transmission of the Coronavirus, and thus, avoid the possibility of a renewed ban on church gatherings. Together we have flattened the curve of this pandemic. With the help of God’s grace, we will continue to do what is needed to be able to gather once again with a degree of safety in order to celebrate the source and summit of our faith in the Eucharist at Mass.