

St. Mary Star of the Sea

Protocols for Phase 2 Liturgy during the Pandemic

The following protocols from the Diocese of Duluth will be put in place to both check the spread of the COVID-19 virus and to allow for access to public Mass and the Sacraments. The protocols are part of a three-phase approach to balance the challenges presented by the virus and public participation. Reverence and respect for the Mass and the Sacraments is key to the proper carrying out of the protocols.

Attendance is limited to 50% seating capacity of the church. We will continue to livestream the 5 PM Saturday Cathedral Mass.

Mass Attendance:

- Until the crisis passes, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted. No one should feel obliged to come to church. You are still required to keep holy the Lord's Day. You can do this by praying the Mass online/TV, making a spiritual communion, and spending time in prayer.
- If you are not feeling well, are 65 or older, have an underlying medical condition that puts you at risk for the virus, or have been caring for someone who is sick, please stay home.
- The City of Duluth is mandating face masks in all public indoor places including churches. Please wear a mask when inside the Cathedral of Our Lady. There are exemptions for those who are unable to medically tolerate face coverings and for children under 10. Cloth face coverings should not be used on children under the age of 2.
- You are encouraged to wear gloves.
- Frequent handwashing of at least 20 seconds is expected.
- Please use hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary.
- Follow signage in regard to social distancing and traffic patterns.
- Enter the sanctuary through the main aisle, and exit through the side aisles.
- Every other pew is roped off. Please sit in open rows and maintain 6 feet of distance from those not in your household. Members of the same household may sit together.
- Please do not touch when greeting others.
- Baptisms, weddings, and funerals may take place as long as the measures concerning proper hand hygiene, social distancing, and group limits are followed.

What is being done at the church?

- Pews, door handles, handrails, and frequently touched surfaces are sanitized daily after Mass.
- Holy water fonts are empty.

- Interior doors are propped open.
- Hand sanitizer is available at church entrances.
- Hymnals have been removed.

What will change with the Mass?

- The procession of the gifts is omitted.
- The physical exchange of the sign of peace is suspended.
- There will be no congregational singing.
- The priest/deacon will consume the Holy Eucharist in the normal way, but not immediately give Holy Communion to the faithful. Rather, the hosts will be placed in the tabernacle awaiting the conclusion of the Mass.

Distribution of Holy Communion at the conclusion of the Mass:

Distribution of Holy Communion requires special care. The directives given here reflect both the Church's great reverence for the Eucharist and the powerful sacramental and liturgical symbolism of Holy Communion, while also providing appropriate precautions against infection.

- The faithful may wear masks when coming to Holy Communion, but may not wear gloves. You may use hand sanitizer before receiving Holy Communion.
- No one is required to come forward who does not feel comfortable doing so.
- The practice of Communion under Both Kinds is suspended.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance between others as you come forward. Tape is placed on the floor to indicate proper spacing between people.
- The faithful remove their face coverings as they approach the priest/deacon and receive Holy Communion in the normal way.
- The priest/deacon will pause and use hand sanitizer if he senses his fingers have made contact with a person's hand or mouth.
- At the conclusion of Holy Communion, the priest and any other ministers return the remaining hosts to the tabernacle.
- The priest then offers a concluding prayer, gives his blessing, and dismisses the people with "Go in the peace of Christ."