



## Mass Attendance Guidelines

- **Sunday Obligation and Personal Responsibility:** The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days by the Diocese of Buffalo resumed on June 5, 2021. Anyone who is frail or at risk due to advanced age or medical conditions or anyone caring for others who are at risk or sick is always excused from this obligation, and we encourage you to use your prudential judgement to determine if it is unsafe for you to attend Mass. Please do not enter the church if you have fever, cough or any other symptoms of an acute respiratory illness. We respectfully request the cooperation of every parishioner in carefully observing the guidelines here in order to maintain as safe an environment as possible for all.
- **Masks:** Masks are now optional, but may continue to be worn at the discretion of the individual - the safety of others should always be considered when making this choice and mask usage is encouraged. A limited supply of masks will be available if needed though we encourage you to bring your own mask.
- **Social Distancing:** So that everyone can feel safe and welcomed, there will be two sections within the church: a “socially distanced section” on the right and a “non-socially distanced section” on the left. There will be signs and ushers to guide you. It is your responsibility to choose the section that you feel most comfortable in and which best suits your health situation while also respecting the needs and decisions of others. Individuals from different households are still encouraged to maintain reasonable separation and respect each other’s personal space.
- **Hygiene:** Please use hand sanitizer when entering or exiting the building. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrances though you are welcome also to bring your own. Please cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the inside of the elbow and use hand sanitizer after coughing and/or sneezing. When using the parish restrooms, wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- **Holy Water Fonts:** Please do not bless yourself with water from the baptismal font.

- **Singing:** Due to the precautions surrounding this activity per the latest CDC and NYS guidance, congregational singing is still suspended, though singing by the cantor(s) and musicians will continue.
- **Offertory:** The offertory procession will resume. Those participating in this should use the hand sanitizer provided before handling the gifts to be offered.
- **Collection:** For the collection, the basket will either be passed from person to person or collected by the usher, depending upon the section in which one is seated.
- **Sign of Peace:** At the sign of peace, a simple wave or nod of the head is appropriate at this time. Please avoid touching others and do not shake hands.
- **Ministries:** In addition to their training, ministers have received Covid specific instructions relevant to their ministry. Please follow the directions of ushers. Altar servers may minister at the discretion of their parents.
- **Communion:** Those who wish to receive communion will form a procession to the Eucharistic minister assigned to their section, and then return up the next aisle back to their seat. Please be mindful of your spacing. Eucharistic Ministers are to wear masks during the distribution of communion. Communion will be distributed in the hand only in keeping with current Diocesan guidelines. Distribution of the precious blood is temporarily suspended.
- **Congregating:** Congregating before or after Mass is best done in non-confined spaces and preferably outdoors.
- **Cleaning:** The parish facilities continue to be cleaned regularly.

***We gratefully appreciate*** your understanding and cooperation as we gather as a parish family and move toward a brighter future for our beloved community! THANK YOU!

***May the Holy Spirit guide us as we continue our mission to be God's heart of mercy and love, God's voice of hope and truth and God's hands of justice and healing to all people.***

**Welcome back, welcome home. May God Bless you and keep you safe!**