

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

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June 12, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Keeping in mind that we are moving toward normalcy, we still need to be patient and open to the fluctuations that periodically must be incorporated in our routine. Remembering that when we gather at Saint John the Baptist, we, the children of God, are called to be rooted in charity toward one another. Please consider the groups represented at Mass: those who are fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons or because of age, and those who have chosen not to be vaccinated. Acknowledging these variables, we have updated our guidelines related to the Covid-19 restrictions always mindful that they are subject to modifications as time passes.

Health and Hygiene Considerations

- Masks: The use of Masks while gathered indoors is not required for fully vaccinated individuals but is RECOMMENDED for non-vaccinated individuals. Masks ARE STILL required in all jurisdictions for all persons in schools and childcare facilities.
- Social Distancing: PER ARCHDIOCESAN POLICY, social distancing is still required between individuals from separate households for indoor gatherings. Pastors are permitted to reduce distancing to 3 feet for indoor celebrations (which may allow the use of all rows) if they feel it would be beneficial. Therefore, the two side wings of our church will have social distancing of 3 feet. Pastors may also choose to set aside a section of the church that maintains 6-foot distancing for those who wish to maintain more separation. Thus, the main section of the church will remain as it is. Of special note: the first 2 short pews on both sides of the center aisle will be set aside for those who are handicapped or require assistance.
- Hand Sanitizers: Parishes are to continue to have hand sanitizer available at the entrance of the Church.
- Ushers will continue their service in assisting with seating, communion, and opening/securing the exit doors as well as handing out bulletins.

Guidance for the Celebration of Mass

- NOTE: We are suspending the need to sign-up for Mass for the time being since none of the Masses have exceeded the allowable capacity.
- The schedule of Masses will continue to be: Saturday-5:00 p.m.; Sunday-7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- Clergy procession at the beginning of Mass from the Sacristy and recession at the end of Mass is restored.
- The Sign of Peace should be restored with the use of a gesture, such as a bow or wave, but shaking of hands should be avoided.
- For clergy and extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion the use of masks while distributing Holy Communion is still required as is the requirement to sanitize one's hands prior to the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended until further notice.
- Music is being provided from the choir loft at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Resumption of music at other Masses will be determined as we go forward.
- With entry unavailable by the side doors, parishioners are still guided to the front entrance of the Church so the protocol for social distancing seating can be properly maintained. The ushers will unlock the side doors to facilitate an orderly exit from the two wings of the Church.
- The clergy are welcome to greet parishioners after Mass but shaking of hands should still be avoided.

Trusting in the guidance of our Good and Gracious God, I remain



Rev. Y. David Brault
Pastor