

MASS ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Dear Parishioner(s),

As you know, Governor Holcomb has given permission for public religious services to be held as long as the CDC guidelines are followed. Bishop McClory is leaving it up to the individual pastors to decide when to "open up" their church in accordance with specific guidelines issued by the Diocese of Gary (which I helped to write and are enumerated below).

If you (and the members of your family) decide to attend, please be aware of the following restrictions that will be in place and will apply to everyone:

1. Those who have any kind of compromised health condition should NOT come.
2. If you have had Covid-19 or have been around someone who has (or has had) Covid-19, you cannot come.
3. If you are sick or live with someone who is sick, please do not come.
4. Bring a mask which you must wear during Mass. We do have hand made face masks available if you do not have one.
5. **Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to Mass**; everyone must be checked in individually. The church **doors will be locked 5 minutes before the start of Mass** and you will not be allowed to enter after Mass has begun.
6. Park in the North parking lot (only the north doors will be used).
7. Practice social distancing at all times, keeping 6 feet between persons (or family groups).

Once you are inside:

1. You will be checked in at the door.
2. There will be a basket at the check in stand for your envelope (the collection will not be taken up).
3. Please do not stand around socializing.
4. Please do not touch anything around the church (e.g., there are no candles to light)
5. Follow the instructions of the hospitality minister and proceed directly to the next available seat. You will not be able to choose your seat.
6. Please note: The bathrooms are open, but we ask you to sanitize your hands before entering, and wash hands thoroughly before exiting.
7. There are no missalettes in the pews; you will be handed a worship aid.
8. There should be no physical contact with anyone outside your immediate family.

For the Communion Procession:

1. Pay attention to the markings on the floor and maintain 6 feet between persons in the Communion line.
2. Everyone must receive Holy Communion in the hand. (If you absolutely cannot bring yourself to do so you must make arrangements before you arrive to receive privately after everyone has left the church.)
3. When you reach the first pew remove your mask, bow, and then approach the table which has been set up as a "Communion station."
4. Extend your hands over the table, one hand under the other so that Father can place the host in your hand without touching you. Take the Host and place it in your mouth.
5. If you drop the Host, you must pick it up and put it in your mouth.

6. Move off to the side and replace your mask.
7. Return to your pew. Please do not leave church early.
8. The next person in line should wait at the first pew until the person in front of them has completely walked away from the table.

For the Dismissal:

1. Please leave your worship aid in the pew to mark where you sat so it may be sanitized before the next Mass.
2. Please maintain 6 feet distance as you leave church.
3. Do not "hang around" in the church; go straight to your vehicle.

All of this may sound a bit extreme, but Governor Holcomb has explicitly stated that he expects religious groups to be especially careful about the safety of their congregants and so become a model for everyone. Things will not remain this way forever.

Thank you for your past service to the parish, your current patience, and your future efforts at maintaining safety in our church.

God bless you!

Fr. Peter Muha