

CONDENSED VERSION OF DIOCESAN GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING OUR CHURCHES

St. Joseph's and St. Anne's Churches will re-open to worshippers on the weekend of July 18 & 19, 2020. Churches are restricted to a maximum gathering of 50 people which includes the priest, one lector, a sacristan, 2 ushers, a treasury representative and one musician. The number 50 or less depending on the available space for physical distancing is to be strictly applied.

The faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass during this phase. Those who are at higher risk from Covid-19 (i.e. those who are older or who have underlying health conditions are encouraged to stay home). Anyone with a cough or feeling sick should not come to Church.

Attendees must register with the Parish Office **by phone** on Wednesday or Thursday in order to attend Mass that coming weekend. Once the maximum number has been reached for that weekend, names will be assigned to the following weekend. A record is to be kept in the event that Contact Tracing is necessary.

1. Holy Water fonts will be empty.
2. Hymnals and prayer cards have been removed from the pews. Sunday Missals may be brought to Church but not left in the pews.
3. Social gatherings before and after Mass are discouraged.
4. Hand sanitizers will be placed near entrance of church and other areas.
5. The faithful are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings but not required.
6. Members of a single household (bubble) may sit together and this also includes groups arriving in a single private vehicle. However, each member is counted individually.
7. Tape has been placed on the floor to indicate proper spacing between individuals when going to Holy Communion.
8. Ushers will be stationed at the church entrance. Every second pew is closed to seating.
9. A collection basket will be placed near the inside entrance with one member of the treasury team to oversee.
10. Choirs and congregational singing are not permitted. One musician is permitted to play liturgical music before Mass, during the Preparation of the Gifts, during Distribution of Holy Communion and at the conclusion of Mass.
11. One reader will proclaim the two readings, and read the psalm and the intercessions.
12. After the priest has received Communion, he will raise the ciborium (with the hosts) and say "The Body of Christ" and all will respond "Amen". During the individual reception of Holy Communion, the host from the priest is given and received in silence.
13. The priest alone will distribute the Body of Christ. There is no distribution of the Precious Blood. The priest will cleanse his hands before he starts distributing Communion to the assembly and when he is finished. We follow our basic practice of the Communion procession, that is coming up the centre aisle and down the side aisles but in single file observing physical distancing.
14. The priest is required to wear a face covering for the Distribution of Holy Communion. Communion on the tongue is not permitted at this time.
15. Before coming forward communicants wearing masks and/or gloves must lower their masks and/or remove gloves before receiving the Host in the hand.
16. The entrance, offertory and recessional processions are omitted.
17. The sign of peace is a respectful bow.
18. The congregation will be directed to leave one row at a time - beginning from rear.
19. The faithful are to maintain physical distancing everywhere on church property.