

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH RETURNING TO MASS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

UPDATED JUNE 28, 2020

Dear Parish Member or Friend of Holy Family,

Now that churches are being allowed to reopen with very important safety guidelines in place, we look forward to welcoming you to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Holy Family if your health and circumstances allow. So, while we are happy to return, the Bishops of Ontario have made necessary changes in our Sunday Mass to shorten the time of our large group gathering to lessen the possibility of viral spread. Our very unusual time requires everyone to make adjustments even in our spiritual home.

Archbishop Mulhall has stated that the faithful are not required to attend Sunday Mass at this time of pandemic until further notice, especially if you are sick, have a compromised immune system, or feel at risk returning to church at this time.

Before you come to Holy Family, do a COVID-19 SCREENING:

Check the temperature of all family members. If anyone has a temperature at or above 37.8 Celsius oral, or 37.5 Celsius forehead, everyone in your house must stay home. As well, make sure no one has a cough, fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, headache, runny nose, sore throat, or chills with shakes.

Everyone over the age of 5 (see below for some exceptions) **WILL NEED TO WEAR A MASK AT MASS**. This includes the ministers at the altar, except when they are speaking, and the musician, except when s/he is singing. You are asked to bring a mask with you, but if you don't have one yet, we will provide one for you.

The following individuals may be exempt from wearing a face covering:

- a child under the age of two years;
- a child under the age of five years either chronologically or developmentally and they refuse to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
- where wearing a face covering would inhibit the person's ability to breathe in any way; or
- where, for any other medical reason, the person cannot safely wear a face covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties, or difficulties in hearing or processing information.

Please use the bathroom before leaving home, as use of the church washroom is discouraged, although it will be disinfected between each use.

We are only using the main church entrance.

As you approach and enter the church, keep six feet from others outside your family group. The walkways will be marked for this. Please be patient as you wait to enter.

PLEASE TAKE DIRECTIONS FROM THE USHERS WHO ARE THERE FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL!

Before you enter the church an USHER will ask you if you have done the COVID Screening. Hand sanitizer will be given in your hand.

An USHER will show you where to sit in our limited seating. Pews and aisles will be marked for physical distancing. If you have mobility issues, please arrive at church early.

Do not enter the sacristy unless you have been asked to assist during Mass.

There will be no bulletin or children's liturgy.

The musician will lead us in praise and will sing alone at a safe distance, but we ask that **NO ONE ELSE SING** at any time. Singing spreads droplets more forcefully.

If you suddenly feel ill, or start coughing or sneezing, please leave the church for the safety of others.

HOLY COMMUNION will take place at the usual time in the Mass. The USHER will direct you one row at a time, ensuring physical distancing.

All are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand. Please keep top hand flat for safe transfer of the Host. If you wish to receive on the tongue, wait after all others, then go to the priest. The minister of Communion will need to sanitize his/her hands if they touched the communicant.

Follow directions for exiting church after the dismissal, beginning from nearest the exit. **DONATIONS** may be left in a basket at the church entrance as you leave.

If you brought a St. Joseph Missal or other item to church, please take it home with you.

After dismissal you are asked not to remain inside or out front of the church or along the sidewalk for socializing in order to maintain physical distancing, including in the parking lot.

As we reopen our parishes, we are asked for patience and love for one another, as our trial of this pandemic has not yet ended. Changes are difficult, particularly in our prayer life, but this is a time of special graces from our God who is always with us and loves us.

May God bless you richly!