



# Joyfully Returning to Mass

## PARISHIONER GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING TO RETURN TO PUBLIC MASSES

### **Be Healthy**

While parish campuses are frequently cleaned and sanitized, the risk of coming into contact with coronavirus remains. Individuals and families should take personal responsibility to protect themselves.

### **Be Smart**

Social distancing and spacing must be practiced by all individuals on parish properties. All are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidelines for handwashing and hand sanitizer use, as well as recommendations regarding the use of masks or cloth face coverings while in public.

### **Be Holy**

Remember to be patient and kind. Pastors and parishes will do their best to offer Holy Mass, Communion and Confession, but may face challenges because of the health and/or age of priests, deacons, staff and volunteers. This means every parish may do things a little differently.

### **What is going to be different for now?**

The number of people in each church is going to be limited based on social distancing and seating capacity.

There will be no missalettes or collection baskets passed around.

Livestreaming of the Mass will continue for parishes that are able to do so.

Parish centers might be used for overflow seating to provide for social distancing.

There will be no exchange of the Sign of Peace or other physical contact during the Mass.

***Thank you for your patience during this time and for supporting your parish!***

### **Should I come to Mass?**

Each person must make the decision of what is best for themselves and their families. Stay home if:

- You are feeling sick or have a fever.
- You have a sick family member at home or have been recently exposed to someone who may be sick.
- You are a primary caretaker of a vulnerable person.
- You have been traveling or in large crowds.
- You are at risk because of preexisting conditions or age.

**All Catholics remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice.**

### **Holy Communion**

Social distancing and spacing of 6 feet must be observed in the Communion line.

There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood.

The faithful should consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand.

### **Confession**

Privacy, social distancing and spacing of 6 feet must be observed.