

Visitation Public Mass Protocols – Revised July 1, 2020

Considerations before coming to Mass:

1. Bishop Johnston has dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday.
2. Those who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to another with the virus within 14 days are not permitted to enter the church, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All attendees are asked to check their temperature at home before coming to church.
3. Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are 60 or older are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Mass.

Weekend Mass times:

- Saturday: 4:00 pm
- Sunday: 9:00 am
- A virtual Mass will continue to be made available at 9:00 am Sundays on Facebook and our YouTube channel.

Capacity:

1. Including ministers (priest, sacristan, ushers, lector, ministers of Holy Communion, server, cantor, organist, etc.), Mass attendance is limited to 180 people (this can change as city mandates change).

Reservation process for weekend Masses:

1. The purpose of the reservation process is to manage the number of people we can have in the church for each Mass as well as to provide a list for notification in the event we have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis from among our attendees.
2. The most current reservation information can be found in the Special Announcements box on the homepage of our website at www.visitation.org.
3. Since ministers involved in the liturgy (priest, sacristan, server, lector, organist, cantor and ushers) are accounted for in our allowed attendance, we will assign those spots prior to filling reservations.
4. Parishioners may call Debbie Gilbert in the parish office at 753-7422 or email Megan Burdolski at megan@church.visitation.org beginning at 9:00 am each Monday to reserve seats for the upcoming weekend. Phone calls will be accepted from 9:00 am-3:00 pm ONLY, Monday through Thursday. Seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis as available. You will receive a written or verbal confirmation if seats are available for your household.

To give all families interested in attending Mass the opportunity, we respectfully request those who attended the prior weekend to please wait until Wednesday to request seats in order to allow those who did not attend to have the first opportunity.

Masks:

1. All are obliged to wear masks until arriving at your pew. ***Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in our metropolitan area and the indoor mask mandate in Kansas City, we encourage those attending Mass to keep their mask on even when in pew.***
2. Masks are required when in procession at communion.
3. If receiving the Eucharist, we ask that people receive on the hand, step aside, remove mask and consume host. Then put mask back on until back in pew. Those not receiving communion should remain at your pew.
4. Masks must also be worn when leaving mass.

Virtual liturgy guides (or print-at-home liturgy guides) and virtual bulletins:

1. We are not allowed to hand out materials including bulletins and liturgy guides. All hymnals have been removed.
2. Virtual liturgy guides are available online with readings and music included. These can be printed ahead of time and be brought to Mass. We also invite people to view liturgy guides with a smartphone during the Mass.
3. Bulletins will be available online only.

Arriving at Mass:

1. Maintaining social distancing between households, attendees may enter the narthex no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.
2. Everyone must enter church through the main entrance. Tighe Hall doors will not be open. Tighe Hall restrooms and nursery will not be available at this time.
3. Ushers will check your name off our attendance list.
4. At the request of civil authorities, we will maintain attendance lists for 30 days following each Mass in the event we need to notify you of possible exposure to Covid-19.

Seating:

1. Households should sit together.
2. With the exception of the gallery and any taped-off pews/sections, households may sit wherever they wish, observing a minimum of 6 feet distance between households. The gallery will be closed so that the staff have less area to sanitize between Masses. Ushers are being asked to help manage the spacing in pews as needed. We appreciate everyone's help to accomplish this.
3. Two different households may share a pew provided there is proper distancing in between.
4. There will be an empty pew in between each occupied pew.

Communion procession logistics:

1. Each section will receive communion separately.
2. Maintaining distancing, only one line will be formed at each aisle.
3. If receiving the Eucharist, we ask that people receive on the hand, step aside, remove mask and consume host. Then put mask back on until back in pew. Those not receiving communion are to remain in pew.
4. Distribution of the Holy Eucharist from the chalice is prohibited at this time and only the priest will receive from the chalice as they are obliged to do so.

Leaving Mass:

1. The priest will give instructions for exiting the church and ushers will help direct the flow of dismissal. To avoid clusters of people, different sets of doors will be used for different pew sections to exit.
2. We must respectfully ask that people do not linger or socialize in the narthex or outside on the sidewalk to allow proper social distancing between households during exit.
3. Though he greatly dislikes it, the diocese insists that Fr. Brad, and other priests respect the social distancing requirements before and after Mass by not greeting attendees. The priest and staff are not trying to be disrespectful or standoffish.

Sanitizing:

1. Hand sanitizer will be available; however, we encourage you to bring your own.
2. Pews and high traffic areas will be sanitized in between liturgies.

Weekday Masses:

1. Weekday Masses will be held Tuesday-Friday at 8:15 am in the Nave (not in the chapel) to allow for proper social distancing. No reservation is required to attend weekday Mass.
2. There will not be a Saturday morning Mass to allow for other sacraments such as baptisms, funerals and weddings to take place.
3. In the event that a funeral is scheduled on a weekday, the 8:15 am Mass will be canceled.

Communion services:

- Lay-led communion services are currently suspended until further notice.

Other liturgical considerations:

1. The diocese has suspended congregational singing for the time being.
2. The diocese prohibits us to pass a collection basket. There will be a basket available on the narthex table to leave contributions.
3. There is no procession of the gifts.
4. There is no physical contact between different households during the sign of peace.
5. Holy water fonts have been removed and the baptismal font has been drained.