

# ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH ROUSES POINT, NY

## PLAN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP AND REOPENING CHURCH

### JUNE 10, 2020

At this point in time we are limited to **91** persons in the church and **45** in the Parish Hall, due to social distancing. Health authorities recommend frequent hand hygiene, vigilant social distancing and the use of face coverings in public.

Anyone feeling sick should remain at home, and anyone who has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual should self-quarantine for fourteen days.

Social distancing calls for avoiding close contact with persons outside of one's household. This generally means avoiding being within six feet of others, especially if this proximity will last fifteen minutes or more. Certain necessary tasks, such as purchasing food or medications, working in an essential business, may require that we come closer than six feet from others. These momentary interactions present an acceptable risk, especially when other precautions are taken. Reception of the Sacraments is important for the faithful in the midst of a pandemic, so similar guidelines should apply. Given how the virus is thought to spread, this risk is lower for brief encounters than in cases of prolonged contact.

#### General Provisions

##### **1. A GENERAL DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS IN EFFECT.**

- All persons who are at risk should remain home for their own safety.
  - While there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, we encourage all people to grow in their relationship with the Lord, keep holy the Lord's Day, and maintain contact with their parish by prayer and watching the Mass over the internet or on television, or by listening on the radio. Opportunities to virtually participate in Mass are available at the following sites or links:
    - 8:00 A.M. Sunday Mass livestream at <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>.
    - St. Alexander's, Morrisonville, NY 4:00 P.M. Saturday (Sunday Anticipated) Mass livestream and afterward On YouTube.
    - St. Augustine's, Peru, NY 9:30 A.M. Sunday Mass livestream and later on YouTube.
    - Plattsburgh, NY parishes, Sunday Mass posted by 4:00 P.M. Saturday on YouTube.
    - New York: Sirius XM Radio, The Catholic Channel, #129, from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sundays 10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.
    - EWTN: 12:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
    - Catholic TV Network: internet live streaming at <https://www/watchthermass.com/>.
    - Word on Fire Daily Mass: <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>
    - When it may be safely done, opportunities for those unable to attend Mass in person to receive the Eucharist will be provided. Please call the rectory and we will let you know if and when these opportunities may be available.
2. The symptoms of infection for COVID-19 include a fever of 99.6 or higher, cough, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of taste or smell, and unexplained body aches. Anyone with these symptoms should remain home and not come to church for any reason.

#### Screening and Hygiene

1. Hand sanitizer has been placed at the entrances of the church. Everyone should perform hand hygiene when entering and exiting the church.
2. The faithful, 2 years of age and over, should wear cloth coverings over their faces in public, including when they come to church.

3. We will clean and disinfect the church in accord with the recommendations of the New York State Department of Health and CDC guidelines.

#### Limited Mass Attendance:

- At this time, Mass attendance is limited to **91** persons in the church and **45** in the Parish Hall. **As limitations on attendance are relaxed, we will open up attendance to the limits imposed by governmental entities, with the permission of Bishop LaValley.** The number may vary slightly because members of the same household do not have social distance from each other, but may sit together, provided they are all at least six feet away from the nearest person who is not from their household.
- **Mass attendance will be on a first come, first in basis. When we reach the maximum number of attendees, we will not admit more individuals. If it is the 4:00 P.M. Saturday Anticipated Mass, we will ask them if they wish to go to the Parish Hall and hear Mass on the sound system. Holy Communion will be distributed to them there after Mass. There will be two 10:00A.M. Sunday Masses, one in the church and one downstairs in the Parish Hall. Again, when both facilities are filled to capacity, no more individuals will be admitted, and they will be asked to return home and attend the next available Mass here or at St. Mary's or attend Mass virtually on TV, internet or radio. Confessions will be available in the church on Saturday from 3:00 P.M. until 3:45 P.M.**

#### Social Distancing

- Signage and markings to help social distancing have been placed in the church and parish hall . We ask all parishioners to observe the signs and practice social distancing and personal hygiene.
- The faithful should maintain at least a six-foot distance from others outside their household (Pews will be roped off).
- Members of a single household do not need to practice social distancing.
- Areas where the faithful may stand in line will have signs on the floor to indicate proper distancing.
- Ushers will “direct traffic” to avoid congregating when the faithful arrive, enter or leave the church.
- Dismissal after Mass will precede the distribution of Holy Communion row-by- row and will be directed by the Presiding Priest. After receiving Holy Communion, the faithful will exit the church according to the direction of the ushers.
- Once the available spaces in the church are filled, ushers will not admit additional people to the church.
- **If you use the restroom, we ask you to clean the surfaces you touched with the cleaning agents provided. We ask you to maintain at least six feet between you and the next person in line waiting to use the restroom. We have placed signage to remind you to perform hand hygiene after use of the restroom. Please wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before you leave the restroom.**
- There will be no music or choirs at this time.

#### Specific Provisions for Parts of the Mass

##### Instructions/Protocols for Presiding Priest and Servers

- A priest with symptoms of COVID-19 infection (fever of 99.6, cough, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of taste or smell, or unexplained body aches) or with a respiratory infection of any kind will not be celebrating public Mass. This rule applies to Deacons, lectors, sacristans, ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and others who serve at Mass.
- Priest celebrants will not wear gloves, but they may wear a mask during some parts of the Mass. While not wearing a mask, the Presiding Priest will remain more than six feet away from the congregation during Mass. All other ministers will wear a mask when they are within six feet of others.
- To the extent possible, Deacons, Lectors Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should remain at least six feet from the Presiding Priest and each other, except as provided below.
- We will not have altar servers at this time.
- The Roman Missal will be placed on the altar, so another does not have to hold the book during the prayers.

- Proper distances in the sacristy and during entrance and recessional processions must be maintained. Only those necessary should take part in a procession. The others can go to their places or leave separately.
- The Offertory Procession will be omitted.
- A Deacon or server may bring the missal, chalice, paten, ciborium and cures to the altar, while the Presiding Priest waits at the chair. (or the Presiding Priest could do it himself.) After the altar is set up, the Deacon or server moves away, and the Presiding Priest goes to the altar. The Presiding Priest and Deacon will maintain proper physical distancing whenever possible.
- The Lavabo will be done by the Presiding Priest alone, without assistance, either at the altar or the credence table. If at the altar, the Deacon or server should remove the Lavabo items afterward.
- A basket for the collection or collections will be placed near the doors of the church so offertory contributions can be placed as participants enter or exit the church. Baskets should not be passed from person to person.
- The Presiding Priest's host should be placed alone on his paten. If hosts for others are to be consecrated, they should be placed separately toward the side of the altar on a separate corporal so the hosts are not in front of the Presiding Priest as he proclaims the Eucharistic Prayer.
- The Deacon may stand near the Presiding Priest to elevate the chalice at "Through Him, and with Him and in Him," since this section is brief.
- There will be no sign of peace.

### **Distribution of Holy Communion**

- **After the Lamb of God is said, the Presiding Priest will announce that Holy Communion will be distributed after Mass is concluded. At this time, he will remind the faithful to maintain a 6-foot distance from each other as they come forward for Holy Communion, and that the ushers will aid the procession, row by row. When one has received Holy Communion he or she may directly exit the church. Those who are not able to come up the aisle will receive Holy Communion from the priest or Eucharistic Minister where they are seated. AND Holy Communion is to be received in the hand.**
- **The Presiding Priest and Deacon will consume the Eucharist in the normal way. Either will bring the consecrated hosts to the tabernacle. Then the altar will be cleared, the Closing Prayer will be proclaimed and the Blessing and Dismissal will be given.**
- After the concluding blessing and the dismissal, the Presiding Priest and Deacon remain in the sanctuary. The Presiding Priest and Deacon will remove their chasuble and dalmatic at the chair. Either will go to the tabernacle and bring the consecrated hosts to the altar. Then Holy Communion is distributed by the Presider, Deacon and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.
- The cup will not be offered.
- The faithful will remove face covering prior to approaching for Holy Communion. After receiving Holy Communion they will replace their masks.
- The Presiding Priest, Deacon and Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers will perform hand hygiene after receiving Holy Communion and prior to distributing Holy Communion. They may or may not wear a mask. At each Holy Communion station there will be a table with a corporal and hand sanitizer.
- Holy Communion may not be distributed with gloves, nor may it be received in the hand if a member of the faithful is wearing gloves. Hand hygiene is effective against the virus. In these circumstances, gloves are not needed if the Presiding Priest, Deacon or Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister performs hand hygiene.
- Holy Communion should be received in the hand.
- At the conclusion of the distribution of Holy Communion, the remaining hosts are placed in the tabernacle and then the Presiding Priest, Deacon and Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers perform hand hygiene with sanitizer.
- After all receive Holy Communion, they are to immediately exit the church and return home. They should not congregate with others and practice social distancing when on the property of the church.