

Our Lady of Good Counsel Limited Re-opening for Public Sacraments **Directives and Guidelines**

Daily Mass

- Those in high risk categories should **strongly consider** staying home. Those with the symptoms of any respiratory illnesses **must** stay home.
- The Diocese has limited attendance to 25 people. As we historically, in non-pandemic times only average a little over 30 people at Mass per day, we will not start with any mechanisms in place to restrict attendance. This will be revisited only if it is necessary to do so.
- For Daily Mass, the only open entrance will be the Elevator and East (Rectory) Side door. All other doors may be used for exit only.
- Seating will only be allowed in un-taped pews. Any non-cohabiting families must maintain social distancing of **at least 6 feet** even in the pews that are open. **PLEASE RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR FAVORITE SEAT MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE**
- Facial masks must be worn by those who attend the Mass. The Priest and Lector will remove face coverings for the celebration but will wear them at all other times.
- For this initial phase, Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass, not at the usual time. Please maintain distancing while in line and while exiting the Church. Remove your mask to receive communion and then replace your mask. **Communion in the Hand is strongly preferred at this time.** If you must receive on the tongue please try to wait until the end of the communion line.
- Private prayer is allowed after Mass while the Church is open, but communal and devotional gatherings (Novenas and Rosaries) are still suspended.
- The Restroom in the Choir stairway is available for emergency use only.
- Hand hygiene should be maintained and while Sanitizer will be available at the doors of the Church, parishioners are encouraged to bring their own wipes and sanitizer as well.
- No bulletins, books, or handouts are allowed at this time. Holy Water fonts will be empty
- The continuation of public Masses will be contingent on volunteers willing to help sanitize the Church following the Masses.
- The Cry Room and the Sacristy are currently off limits to the public.

Weekend Masses

The Diocese has limited attendance at weekend Masses to 1/3 of attendance capacity. For Our Lady of Good Counsel this places us at approximately 220 people per Mass. However, in our pews with proper social distancing we are closer to 200. As our normal weekend Mass attendance, in normal circumstances is approximately 200 per mass, we will not place any restrictions on attendance at this time, but will revisit this if it is needed.

- The Bishop continues to keep in place a dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Obligations so that those who need to may “stay home in good conscience.” Those in high risk categories should **strongly consider** staying home. Those with the symptoms of any respiratory illnesses **must** stay home.
- All who attend must either enter through the **Main front doors or through the elevator entrance**. The other doors will be locked. You may exit through any door.
- Seating will only be allowed in un-taped pews. Any non-cohabiting families must maintain social distancing of **at least 6 feet** even in the pews that are open. **PLEASE RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR FAVORITE SEAT MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE.**
- Facial masks or coverings must be worn by those who attend the Mass. The Priest, Deacon and Lector will remove face coverings for the celebration but will wear them at all other times.
- For this initial phase, Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass, not at the usual time. This will happen in both the front and rear of the Church. Please maintain distancing while in line and while exiting the Church. Remove your mask to receive communion and then replace your mask. **Communion in the Hand is strongly preferred at this time.** If you must receive on the tongue please try to wait until the end of the communion line.
- The Restroom in the Choir stairway is available for emergency use only.
- Hand hygiene should be maintained and while Sanitizer will be available at the doors of the Church, parishioners are encouraged to bring their own wipes and sanitizer as well.
- No bulletins, books, or handouts are allowed at this time. Holy Water fonts will be empty
- There will be no Offertory procession. Collection baskets will be placed near the exits of the Church.
- Due to the danger of the spread of respiratory droplets: congregational singing is discouraged and hymns will not be announced.

- The continuation of public Masses will be contingent on volunteers willing to help sanitize the Church following the Masses.
- The Cry Room and the Sacristy are currently off limits to the public.
- The 10:30AM Mass will be live-streamed and recorded for the time being for those who stay home.

The Guidelines for other gatherings...i.e. Baptisms and Funerals in particular, will be discussed with the individual families

Guidelines for Confessions

- Individual appointments for confessions can be made at any time by calling the Office (609) 882-3277 x. 4. We will meet at the agreed upon time on the Front porch of the Rectory.
- Scheduled Confession times will be publicized. They will not be at the usual 4pm on Saturdays for the time being, due to the requirements in preparing the Church for Mass and the difficulty in finding an appropriate place while others are present.
- During scheduled confessions, the sacrament will be held in the Church Narthex/Vestibule in the Front.
- The Priest will be seated inside the front doors with the Doors open. The penitent will have the option of standing outside the door or coming in for face to face confession.
- The Priest and the Penitent must both wear facial masks during the confession.
- The Penitent will have the option of entering the Church or staying outside to fulfill their Penance.
- There will be cones in front of the Church. If there is a confession going on, the next penitent must stay behind the cones, so the privacy may be maintained.
- A chair will be available for the penitent to sit in face-to face confession, but must be wiped down prior to the next penitent.
- The priest and penitent will do the best they can to respect the dignity of the Sacrament while also keeping the interactions brief.