



Information Newsletter

Dear St. Jude Parishioners:

Thanks to all of you who took time to answer the questions pertaining to our return to public worship that were included in the recent survey distributed by Mr. Jesse Spanogle, Director of Faith Formation and Parish Ministries. Please be assured that the COVID-19 Task Force reviewed your responses with care and was particularly appreciative of the many written comments that were submitted. Your “views from the pews” proved extremely valuable and led the task force to refine its protocols for public worship accordingly. (See “Survey-Based Refinements in Worship Protocols,” below.)

General Survey Results

Among the worship-related findings of the survey were the following:

- Respondents were appreciative of the livestreamed Masses made available by the parish, and many continue to avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in virtual liturgies on a weekly basis.
- The majority of respondents who have returned to attending Mass in person are satisfied with the measures being taken to assure their safety and do not feel that their health is being endangered.
- Respondents are grateful to the many volunteers who have committed to sanitizing the church between liturgies and are likewise thankful to those serving as ushers and eucharistic ministers.

Survey-Based Refinements in Worship Protocols

- To minimize parishioners’ exposure to surface-borne contaminants as they leave Mass, our ushers will be instructed to open the doors of the church at the conclusion of the final blessing.
- While assembling in the sanctuary for the Communion Rite, our eucharistic ministers will maintain safe distancing from each other and sanitize their hands after receiving the Eucharist themselves.

Mutual-Safety Behaviors for All Parishioners

Having monitored since early June the parish's response to the health requirements for public worship, the task force wishes to reaffirm the following behaviors for the mutual safety of parishioners:

- Those seeking admission to any of the buildings on our campus—church, office or school—must wear a face mask.
- Upon entering our church building, participants in parish liturgies should sanitize their hands at one of the sanitizing stations or pump bottles located near each entrance.
- All worshipers must wear their masks in a way that **sufficiently covers their mouths and noses**.
- To prevent contamination of the kneelers and pew backs, worshipers should **stand** during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- While coming forward to receive Communion, worshipers should observe 6ft. distancing from those in front and behind them who are not members of their household.
- Communicants are strongly encouraged to **receive the sacrament in their hands**. They should leave their masks *on* while receiving the sacrament and responding “Amen” to the priest or eucharistic minister, before stepping to the side, removing their masks and consuming the sacrament.



Our Promise of Vigilance Going Forward (And a Note of Encouragement)

The task force would like to thank the people of St. Jude for their patience and support during the initial phase of our response to the challenge of public worship. We take it as a gesture of faith in us and in the God who gives his people sufficient wisdom to confront life's great challenges that so many of you have chosen to return to worshiping among others in our beautiful church building.

Though Bishop Persico's special dispensation from our obligation to attend weekend Mass remains in place, we encourage any of you who feel sufficiently healthy and confident in the measures being taken to safeguard your health to consider rejoining your fellow parishioners at the Table of the Lord sometime soon. The bishop's mandate that no more than 1/3 of the church's interior space be occupied at any time allows worshipers to disperse themselves at distances they will certainly find safe. In addition, the members of the task force will continue to monitor the health-safety conditions and practices in our parish and report changes in these to you accordingly.

The task force remains vigilant in its response to the challenge of COVID-19 and looks forward to the reappearance at weekend Mass someday of all the members of our parish family.

St. Jude Parish COVID-19 Task Force

Sue Matteson, Chair (838-2164)

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