

Reopening St. Clement for Mass

effective 8\3\20

This list explains our plans to prepare for reopening the church and how we will operate when celebrating public Mass. Many regulations and protocols are set not by us, but by the State of Massachusetts and the Archdiocese of Boston. These practices are subject to sudden change and may be modified as we adapt to our new circumstances, or by order from the Governor or Archdiocese. Please consult our website frequently to stay informed on any changes we make.

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1) What to expect from us:

a. Scheduled open services

- We will maintain our usual weekend Mass schedule:
 - Saturday Vigil - 4:00 PM
 - Sunday - 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM
 - Daily Mass: Tuesday - Friday - 7:00 AM
 - Rosary Prayers: Monday & Saturday - 7:00 AM
- Daily Mass and Funerals are available with the same rules and restrictions as Sunday Mass.

- Baptisms and weddings may be scheduled on an individual basis by emailing the Parish Office. These are also subject to the same restrictions as other masses.
- Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday evenings at 5:30 PM is and the 6:30 PM are now cancelled.
- Confessions are available on Saturday's from 3:00 - 4:00 PM.
- The Parish Office has been working remotely and is now open for business with modifications.
 - Shortened Office Hours: Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 - Staff will wear face coverings and sanitize all touched surfaces daily. Social distancing must be maintained.
 - Please call prior to visiting in-person as many services can be processed remotely.
 - Please **DO NOT** come in-person if you have any symptoms, were recently exposed to, or tested positive for the coronavirus.

b. Modifications to the church

- A maximum attendance limit of roughly 70 people for Mass.
- Only the central aisle pews are available for seating. The pews have blue masking tape to indicate where to sit in order to maintain 6ft of distance. The side aisles and choir sections benches are blocked off with tape and not to be used.
- There will be clear blue tape indicators and ushers to direct the flow of traffic for entering and exiting the church, and for receiving Communion.
- The missalettes, mass cards, hymnals, candles, runners and Holy Water basins and fonts have been removed.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entrance, but we ask you bring your own when possible (see Donations below for more).
- A survey has been posted on our website that will help us estimate weekly Mass attendance.
- The bulletin is now being printed for distribution at the end of Mass.

c. How we will celebrate Mass

- The priest will not wear face coverings while celebrating Mass, only when distributing Communion.
- The lectors, cantor and organist will wear face coverings, except when reading\singing before the altar.
- There will be no processions or Offertory procession.
- There will not be any altar servers or Eucharistic Ministers. There will only be one lector.
- Priests will read the Gospel and say the Homily from the altar to avoid sharing a microphone with the lector.
- Music is limited to the organist and cantor only. No congregational singing.
- There will be no Sign of Peace or holding hands during the Our Father.
- The collection baskets will not be passed around for in-pew collections. A designated collection box is stationed at the entrance of the church.
- After each Mass, the church and bathroom is thoroughly cleaned by volunteers.

d. Holy Communion

- Following the blue tape arrows, a single file down the central isle will lead to only one station in front of the altar: no eucharistic ministers.
- A mask/face covering is obligatory for both priests and communicants.
- Gloves are not necessary and cannot be used to receive Communion.
- Priests and communicants will all be wearing masks.
- The priest disinfects hands right before distribution and does not wear gloves.
- Priest's hands are disinfecting immediately every time he happens to touch a communicant's hand.
- Communion is only received in hand; Communion may NOT be received by mouth - NO EXCEPTIONS
- Masks and face coverings must remain on until AFTER the communicant has received Communion in hand and stepped aside. Then the communicant removes the face covering, quickly consumes the Blessed Sacrament with due reverence, then immediately puts the face cover back on and returns to the pews for silent prayer and meditation.
- Receiving Holy Communion is NOT mandatory and those who do not feel safe are welcome to choose for themselves. Anyone not receiving Communion must exit the pews and step aside to permit other communicants from having to climb over.
- Children who were scheduled to celebrate First Communion are permitted to receive Holy Communion at this time.

2) What is expected from parishioners and attendees:

a. Social distancing

- No gathering or congregating before or after Mass
 - There will be no events or groups held outside of Mass.
 - No gathering in or outside of the church to socialize. The police are authorized to disband groups of 10 or more individuals.
- Everyone is asked to leave immediately after exiting the church, so volunteers can begin cleaning the church as soon as possible.
- 6ft. of distance must be maintained at all times, in and out of the church, before and after Mass.
- Individuals and families living in the same household do not need to keep 6ft apart from each other.
- People who are not from the same household must maintain social distancing.
 - Including friends who would normally attend Mass together
- Blue masking tape must be followed, as well as the instructions of ushers.
- Be sure to fill the survey on our website each week by the given deadline. This is not a reservation. It only informs us if we may be at risk of exceeding our 70 person capacity.
- If the maximum capacity of 70 people is reached prior to the start of Mass, you will be asked to return for a later Mass.
 - Though far from ideal, this is necessary for the time being.

b. Masks and gloves

- Masks or face coverings are mandatory with only a few exceptions.
 - If you have a medical condition that prohibits face coverings, you do not have to wear one. You do not need to provide any documents to prove a medical condition.
 - Children 2 years or younger should NOT wear a mask. Children ages 3-5 may wear a mask at their parents' discretion.
 - Ages 6 and older must wear a mask or face covering.
- Gloves are not necessary and cannot be used during Communion.
- Hands must be sanitized prior to entering the church.

c. Should I attend Mass?

- Your safety and preventing further spread of the virus is the **FIRST** priority for reopening safely.
- The Cardinal's dispensation of obligation to attend Sunday Mass is **STILL IN EFFECT**.
 - You are not committing a sin if you do not attend Sunday Mass.
 - At-risk individuals and those who live with or care for at-risk individuals are especially encouraged to consider their safety.
- Do **NOT** come to Mass if:
 - You have any symptoms of the virus
 - Feel unwell or have a fever
 - Have or recently had a respiratory infection (even a basic cold)
 - Have tested positive for COVID-19 or think you might have the virus
 - Have been or suspect you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive

d. What if a Mass attendee later tests positive to COVID 19?

- We have planned for the possibility that there will be people who attend Mass and are unknowingly infected with the coronavirus. In the case we're informed of the COVID diagnosis of a Mass attendee after he/she attended the Mass, the following **directive is in place from the weekend of June 27/28** forward:
 - An announcement will be posted on the parish website and parishioners should check the website regularly.
 - An announcement will be made at all the daily and Sunday Masses of the following week/weekend.
 - The name of an individual who tests positive is **NOT** announced, just the date and time of the Mass that they attended.

3) What you can do to help!:

a. Trust us and follow the guidelines

- Your cooperation is essential for us to hold Mass again. If the regulations mandated by the State and Archdiocese aren't adhered to, our public Mass services **CAN BE REVOKED!**

- Please listen to ushers and follow their instructions.
 - It's a hard job they'll have to do, so please be courteous.
 - Don't argue or get angry at them.
 - Same goes for our priests and staff!
- If you see someone not wearing a mask or getting too close to others:
 - Ask politely and patiently to put on mask
 - Remember the exemptions for face coverings
 - Don't stay too close out of politeness; keep your space and remind them kindly why you need to maintain 6ft. distance
 - If they don't listen, DO NOT argue with or confront them.
 - If you are concerned for everyone's safety, you may inform a priest.
- Mistakes will more likely be made just out of simple habit for what we're accustomed to, rather than a disregard of safety. We can do this together by supporting and encouraging one another!

b. Volunteer

- We urgently need 3 ushers for each Mass.
 - Higher degree of contact with multiple people and is, therefore, a higher risk role.
 - Usher volunteers should be low-risk: under 60 years old, no preexisting conditions or at-risk household members.
 - Must be ready to do hard tasks: encouraging people to wear their masks and keep a safe distance, asking attendees to return for a different Mass when capacity is reached, separate friend from different household for seating, etc.
- We need 4-5 cleaners after each Mass.
 - Estimated cleaning time is about 30 minutes.
 - All common and contacted areas must be disinfected: pews, doors and door handles, bathroom
 - Bathroom must be checked for soap, paper towels and toilet paper
- Volunteer Coordinator: Allison Fillo - please contact her ASAP if you want to sign up to volunteer
 - allison.ahern@gmail.com
 - (860) 227-6429
 - Indicate what role you want to volunteer and which Mass or Masses you can help with.

c. Donate

- First of all, our deepest and sincerest thanks to everyone whose help and donations has kept us afloat during lockdown. We so grateful for your generous support!
- A collection box is available for envelopes and offertories at the front of the church doors.
- We encourage you, if you are able, to sign up for Online Giving, which allows one-time payments or recurring payments from any electronic device. Instructions are available on our website
- Hand sanitizer is in short supply and we will need a LOT.
 - Please bring your own if you have some.

- If you are able to purchase any (minimum 60% alcohol content) for us to use, this will be a substantial aid for us.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LISTENING AND FOLLOWING ALL THESE GUIDELINES.

We do hope to go back as soon as possible to our normal (and more beautiful and humane) way to celebrate the Eucharist, but what we do now is necessary to be at Mass and receive Our Lord as safely as possible, together again. Let's all be thankful for this.

We are all so glad, to be back to celebrate together. Praise the Lord!