

# Frequently Asked Questions

## When will public Mass resume?

The first scheduled public celebration of Mass will be on June 1, 2020. First Sunday Mass will be on Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7

## Is it mandatory to attend Mass?

The dispensation of the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place until decreed otherwise by the bishop. No one is obliged to attend Holy Mass while this dispensation is in effect.

Anyone who has even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness must remain home.

Attendees and volunteers from demographic groups that are at a greater risk of serious illness, such as people 65 years of age or older and individuals with chronic medical conditions, are encouraged to stay safe by avoiding public gatherings, but are not prohibited from attending Mass if they so choose.

As use of mask is mandatory, small children are encouraged to stay home, but are not prohibited from attending Mass. Parents / guardians are responsible to keep their children with them throughout the Mass. Children are not allowed to run around during Mass. Children must wear their mask at all times.

Anyone attending Mass does so at their own risk.

Parishioners in St John are welcome to attend Mass in St. Paul and follow the same protocols.

## How many are allowed to attend Mass?

The maximum capacity of each church is reduced to no more than 50 people. This includes the priest, liturgical ministers, live stream videographers (if applicable), ushers, the cleaning team and anyone else present during Mass.

## How are we going to manage the maximum 50 people?

Please see *'What do we need prior to attending Mass'*.

There is a volunteer at the Point Of Entry to ensure we comply with the AHS guidelines of maximum 50 people

## What do we need to do prior to attending Mass?

Each and every attendee **must** pre-register by calling the Parish Office at 780-791-4305 on Thursday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm, or email: [office@stpaulparishwb.com](mailto:office@stpaulparishwb.com) or online registration at [www.stpaulparishwb.com](http://www.stpaulparishwb.com) to attend Sunday Mass celebration.

Please bring and wear mask for each individual. Please ensure that your mask is on before you approach the Point of Entry Volunteer.

Print and fill-out the AHS Self-Assessment Form before arriving at Church. For those who do not have printers at home, please ask a volunteer for the form upon arrival outside the church. Please bring your own pen to fill the form; no sharing of pen/pencils. Please hand the filled AHS Self-Assessment to the Point of Entry

Volunteer.

Please use the washroom before going to church. Washroom in the church cry room is available for urgent use.

**What happens if I forget to register and I am already at Church?**

Only those who are pre-registered are allowed into the church.

**What happen if I have registered but I arrived late?**

The church doors will be closed once the Mass celebration starts.

**Is there a payment to register?**

Registration is free of charge.

**Will there be assigned seating?**

Volunteer ushers shall direct attendees to the clearly marked pews to manage seating and monitor occupancy.

**Do I need to pre-register for weekday Mass?**

At this time, you do not need to pre-register for daily Mass, however all other AHS guidelines apply. Eg. Contact Tracing Form, physical distancing, etc.

**What if I want to help?**

To limit exposure, altar servers, communion ministers, hospitality, musicians, etc are temporarily put on hold. Please contact Fr. Francis for volunteer opportunities.

**What do I need to do after Mass?**

Follow the direction of the priest.

Avoid socializing after Mass in the church.

Please exit the Church in a respectable manner observing physical distancing.

Please continue to observe physical distancing even at the church parking lot.

**Changes in the celebration of Mass - For Parishioners**

Prior to providing the contact information for the attendance list, attendees will be asked health and travel-related questions consistent with the self-assessment tool of AHS.

To expedite the process for entry to the church, an attendance recorder will collect this information outside the church as the faithful arrive.

All attendees must be directed to the pews to manage seating and monitor occupancy.

No singing. Entrance and recessional processions are to be omitted and the priest celebrant could enter directly from the sacristy.

Only one lector will be involved and will be asked to proclaim all the readings.

There will be no altar servers or Communion Ministers, Facilitators, Hospitality Ministries, or musicians

The priest celebrant will not be wearing a non-medical mask during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; therefore, all ciboria must be covered with palls at all times. He will be required to wear one during the distribution of Holy Communion.

No presentation of the gifts is to be made.

No collection is taken during the Mass. Instead, baskets are placed near the entrance or at an accessible and monitored location within the church. Secure vigilance over the donations is to be assured.

There is to be no Sign of Peace.

There is to be no holy water in fonts.

The Liturgy of the Word for children during Masses is not permitted.

Physical distancing must be maintained during the Communion procession. There can be only one single file Communion line. Members of the same household need not observe physical distancing with one another during the Communion procession.

The Precious Blood will not be distributed at this time.

Holy Communion may only be received in the hand.

Wait for final direction from the Priest for orderly exiting process. Do not leave right after Communion.

### **Are social gatherings allowed? Various church organization gathering?**

All social gatherings and other activities are prohibited in the churches.

### **Will there be collection or Offerings?**

No collection is taken during the Mass. Instead, baskets are placed near the entrance or at an accessible and monitored location within the church. Secure vigilance over the donations is to be assured.

### **Can we request Confession?**

By appointment only

### **Can I receive Communion on the tongue?**

Holy Communion may only be received in the hand.

Acknowledging that receiving Communion on the tongue is a right of all the faithful ( Redemptionis Sacramentum, n. 92), nevertheless ecclesiastical authority is to regulate rights in view of the common good (can. 223, §2). In the present circumstances, Communion will not be distributed on the tongue. This is a temporary measure to be reviewed on an on-going basis in the light of developing medical advice.

### **Will Mass resume in schools**

Stage 1 only allows for Masses to be celebrated in the parish churches. Masses in long-term care facilities and schools are not permissible at this time.