



The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist Parish

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Administered by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, MSC

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Dear Parish Family,

Great news! Archbishop Pérez has announced that parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be able to resume public Masses the weekend of June 6 and 7. We at St. John's look forward to welcoming you back! **Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we make our way back to the in person celebration of the Mass.**

While our county remains in the Yellow Phase of statewide reopening, all of us need to do our part to make sure that our return to Mass is a peaceful and safe experience for all. Please take the time to read the instructions below. We ask everyone to follow these guidelines when attending Mass during this period:

GENERAL POINTS

- The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation continues to be lifted during the Yellow Phase. You are not required to attend Mass at this time but you are to keep Holy the Lord's day by viewing Mass and making a Spiritual Communion (see our website).
- Please stay home if you are sick; or if you are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. If you are uncertain about your risk status, please consult your doctor and also the CDC Guidelines at the link below. Click here to read the CDC Guidelines for those at higher risk: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>
- For those who remain at home, Mass will still be available via live-stream from the Cathedral and also on EWTN (see our website for links or check your local TV guide)

MASS SCHEDULE

- Weekday Mass: 8:35am in the Main Church.
- Weekend Masses: Saturday, 5pm; Sunday 8am & 10:30am

BEFORE COMING TO MASS

- **Please wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and water.**
- **MASKS ARE MANDATORY.** Before entering the Church, please put on a face mask or cloth covering. *Exceptions to this are "children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance" (CDC Guidelines).*
- **Please do not come to Mass if you are sick or are at higher risk for severe illness with COVID19 (see above).**
- **Missalettes will not be in the pews during this period.** You are welcome to bring your own missal/readings with you or pick up a single-use worship aid once in church.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

- **One set of double doors** in the front and the back of the church will be open. The other doors will remain locked.
- **Hand sanitizers** will be available at the Church entrances. Please use the hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the Church.
- **A Single-Use Worship aid** will be available to you to pick up on your way into Mass. You are to take this with you as you leave. Likewise, our weekly Bulletin will be available for you to pick-up upon exiting the church.
- **There will be no gathering in the Narthex.** Parishioners are to go directly to your seat inside the main church. The Chapel will remain closed during this time.
- **Holy Water fonts will remain dry.**

SEATING

- When taking your seat, please honor all posted signs about where you may sit. Every **third pew** will be open to ensure proper social distancing.
- Members of the same household may sit together as normal. Please allow a distance of 6 feet between your household and members of a different household.

DURING MASS

- **Music: 1 Cantor and 1 Musician** only. The Cantor will remain at the Cantor's stand and sing 1 verse only of the processional song; Responsorial refrain only: Gospel Dialogue (Alleluia); Holy, Holy; Lamb of God; Instrumental only during Communion; 1 verse recessional song.
- **Liturgy of the Word: 1 Lay Reader** in addition to the readings he/she will read the Responsorial verses.
- **The collection** will be taken up during the Offertory as usual **using long-handled baskets only.**
- **There will be no Offertory Gifts brought up.**
- **There will be no contact Sign of Peace** during Mass during the Yellow Phase.
- **The Precious Blood will not be distributed** during Mass during the Yellow Phase.
- There should be **no holding of hands during the Our Father.**

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- **Only one single Communion line up the center aisle; one single Low Gluten line along the St. Joseph side aisle.**
- **Please maintain social distancing in the Communion line.** Please keep several pews between yourself and the person in front of you while in line and when returning to your pew.
- During the Yellow Phase, **the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand.**
- **For those who will only receive Holy Communion on the tongue** – a Priest will be in the rear of the church next to the glass Chapel windows.
- Please **partially remove your mask (remove from one ear only)** before receiving Holy Communion. You should replace you mask fully on your face before returning to your pew.

EXITING THE CHURCH

- At the conclusion of Mass, please be sure you **do not leave anything behind in the pew or pew pockets.**
- Please **exit the Church in a single line while respecting the social distancing** between you and the person in front of you. You are to **exit through the open doors only and proceed directly to your car.** Please do not congregate inside or outside of the church for any reason.
- Please take a **parish bulletin** home with you. They will be **available to pick up on your way out.**
- Please leave your mask on until you exit the Church.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

St. John the Baptist Parish will follow the guidelines from the CDC for sanitation as we resume public Masses. To view the CDC guidelines, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html>

We have hired a professional cleaning company who will deep clean and sanitize our church, chapel, Narthex, and restroom weekly on Fridays after our morning Mass. To assure your protection, our church doors will remain locked until we open them for Confession on Saturday at 4pm.

Volunteers: We are in need of volunteers, 16 years and older, who are in good health, to wipe down surfaces (i.e. tops of “open” pews, door knobs, restroom stall handles, top of altar server kneelers, bells, candle lighters) between our Masses. Masks, gloves and disinfectant will be provided by the church.

Sacred Vessels in addition to the purification done by the Priest, will be thoroughly washed with soap and water after each use.

Please view the Diocese sponsored short video titled, “BACK TO MASS” by clicking this link <https://vimeo.com/423262781>

And please continue to visit our parish website regularly for access to our many resources.
www.stjohnsottsville.org