

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN

## RETURN TO MASS

Sacred Heart is working to be vigilant with our efforts regarding cleanliness and virus transmission awareness. Please review the following information and help us implement these guidelines as we strive to do our best to keep you and others safe. Our guidance comes from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis. We will continue to seek input from the Archdiocese, as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

We need to work together on this. Please be respectful of each other. We are all in different places and at different risk levels with this pandemic.

**Note: The Obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation continues to be suspended during the pandemic.**

**If you have any questions or concerns with the responsibilities and protocols highlighted below, please contact the Sacred Heart Business Administrator (Mary Daugherty) at 763-537-4561.**

### MASS SCHEDULE

- Mass times will be as follows:
  - Saturday – 4:00PM in Church
  - Saturday - 5:30PM Parking Lot (FM 104.9 on your car radio)
  - Sunday – 8AM, 10AM, 11:30AM (Latin) all in Church
  - Daily Masses - 8AM Tuesday – Friday
- One of the Masses will be live streamed and posted for viewing.

### MASS SIGN-UP & PROCESS

- You will be required to sign-up for a pew slot in either the Main Church or Chapel prior to the week-end Masses. Each pew slot can hold up to (4) people in the same family. If there are more than four in your household utilize two pew slots. You will be able to use the entire pew in this instance. The SignUp link will be available on the Sacred Heart website ([www.shrmn.org](http://www.shrmn.org)) and through flocknote e-mail messages. You can also contact the Parish Office if you need assistance in using SignUp.
- Usher volunteer slots will also be available on SignUp (3 ushers per Mass).
- Enter at either Door #8 (off the West Broadway Parking Lot) or the Main Church Entrance on 41<sup>st</sup> Ave. and check in with an usher to confirm your slot.
- Access to church will be no more than 15 minutes prior to each Mass to allow for disinfecting between Masses.
- Altar Servers will not be used.
- Seating in church will be limited to every 4<sup>th</sup> pew (areas will be roped off).
- Tape will be placed in each pew marking the 6ft social distancing requirement.
- Gathering after Mass in the Commons is not allowed.

### **PARISHIONER/VISITOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A HEALTHY WORSHIP SPACE**

- All COVID-19 positive persons, those who are symptomatic, and those living with them, must stay home.
- It is highly recommended that persons over age 65 and/or those with pre-existing health conditions continue to stay home from church.
- Wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds before eating, or after blowing your nose, coughing, and sneezing. If soap and water is not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with a least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and/or in your elbow.
- Avoid touching the face.
- Please do not engage in any physical touch when greeting each other.
- Face masks are strongly encouraged for all members. Please note that for some people who will attend, wearing a mask puts them greatly at ease and would assist them to feel safer, even if you personally desire not to wear it.
- It is recommended that you use the restroom at home before coming to church.
- Carry your own pocket-size hand sanitizer.
- Keep 6ft apart in all directions from others not in the same household (follow any taped-off markings in the pews or aisles).

### **SACRED HEART RESPONSIBILITIES/PROTOCOLS FOR A HEALTHY WORSHIP SPACE**

#### **Sanitizing Protocols**

- Hand Sanitizer will be available at all entrances.
- Entrances and exits will be designated by proper signage.
- Extra tissue will be available at all entrances.
- Pews, kneelers, door handles (any areas of touch) will be disinfected after/between all Masses.
- Weather permitting, windows and doors will be propped open for better air circulation.
- Bathrooms will be disinfected after/between all Masses.
  - One designated stall per bathroom will be available for use
- Ushers/Greeters will wear face masks while volunteering at Masses.
- Sign of Peace will be suspended.
- Congregational singing at Mass will be suspended.
- Holy Water fonts will not be accessible.
- Hymnals and Worship Aids will not be provided.
- A basket for Offertory collection will be placed in the aisle after receiving Communion as you exit. On-line donations are also encouraged.
- Bulletins will be available for pick-up as you exit and will not be distributed by Ushers/Greeters.

### **Holy Communion Distribution Protocol**

- When the number of communicants is more than 10, Communion will be distributed during Mass only to those few ministers in the sanctuary. The remaining faithful will be offered Communion after Mass following Archdiocese protocol.
  - After the Final Blessing, the remaining faithful will be able to receive Communion immediately prior to leaving the Church. They will receive down the center aisle and exit church down the side aisles.
- It is recommended to receive Communion in the hand, however, those exercising their right to receive on the tongue will not be denied. Per Archdiocesan guidelines for the resumption of Public Mass, “the faithful may not wear gloves when receiving Communion in the hand, nor receive it in a paper tissue, plate, cup, pre-packaged containers, or any other unapproved vessels.” If there is inadvertent touching of the hand the communion distributor will sanitize his hands before giving communion to the next person, and will also sanitize his hands after giving communion to someone on the tongue.
- Holy Communion will be distributed by car at the 5:30p.m. Parking Lot Mass on Saturday. Father will come to each car individually.
- Maintain 6ft distance while going to Communion.

### **Other**

- Sacred Heart will communicate if someone visiting our building or a staff member has been exposed to COVID-19. We will not provide names but will provide information on the day/time the exposed person last visited the building so you can be aware of possible exposure.
- The Reception Desk will not be staffed on the weekend.
- Hospitality (Coffee & Donuts) will be suspended until we can restart this safely.
- Signage with various instructions/directions regarding much of the above will be placed throughout the Church/Commons/Restrooms.