

Welcome Back to Public Worship at Incarnation!!

Leaders at Incarnation are joyful as public worship is restored! Great job for the ways you have persevered through so many changes in daily life. Now we have a new opportunity as we protect each other and diminish spread of COVID-19

As Jesus teaches us in so many ways, giving up freedom and power actually shows greater strength and, counterintuitively, it allows for incredible power to be shown. For example, his sacrifice, suffering and death, leads to resurrection and new life. This is the clearest sign of the Christian paradox. Such is the case for our coronavirus response. Parishioners will be asked to give up some usual freedoms so that all can be safer and have a greater degree of power over some dimensions of the threat of COVID-19 transmission.

Initially, it is very important to note that our obligation to attend Mass has been abrogated until further notice. In other words, no one is obligated to go to Mass for the foreseeable future.

New Mass Schedule

5:30 P.M. – Sunday Vigil in the Church

7:30 A.M.- Church

9:00 A.M. - PAC

10:30 A.M. - Church (overflow only if needed 11:00 PAC)

12:00 Noon - Church

Since the Sunday obligation is abrogated, those who wish to receive Eucharist have a valid option of attending a 6:30 A.M. or 8:30 A.M. weekday Mass, since there are fewer people at weekday Masses. Weekday Masses are in church until further notice.

Requirements for attending Mass and other suggestions/observations

The following will be required of all Sunday or weekday Mass attendees:

- Masks must be worn by all, at all times. Masks are the surest way to protect others and to make sure pews and other surfaces do not become contaminated. Masks are to be taken off immediately before and put on immediately after receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. Masks will be provided for those who do not have a mask. Our theology of requiring masks is very simple: it is an act of selfless service in line with the Gospel, most especially in Jesus' teachings such as the Beatitudes. A new beatitude might read "Blessed are those who wear a mask. They protect others and they, themselves will be protected!" To be heard and understood, lectors, cantors and presiders may remove their mask while speaking/singing. Eucharistic ministers are to take

masks off to receive communion themselves. Then they are to put masks back on, apply hand sanitizer and then distribute communion with masks on.

- Please receive communion in the hand, since saliva appears to be a primary means of transmission for COVID-19
- Bread to be consecrated will be handled minimally and covered completely before communion. No cup will be offered.
- Please no holding hands at the Lord's Prayer and shaking hands at sign of peace.
- Keeping hands in your lap, being cautious about what you touch, and not touching your face are very effective in diminishing COVID-19 spread.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at church doors for those who wish to use it.
- We will strive to either have doors open or someone opening the doors.
- Hymnals will not be in pews and disposable hymn sheets will be used.
- Washrooms will be sanitized after each Mass.

Length of Mass

Generally speaking, Masses will be shorter, due to the following changes.

- Homilies will be shorter than usual.
- No choirs will be present and singing during Mass will be lessened.

Distancing

In an effort to provide previously unoccupied space for each of the four church Masses, a color coding system will be observed. When entering church, please note on church doors the "color" designated for the Mass time you are attending.

Congregants should occupy the places in pews where that color of tape is affixed.

Families, please stay as close to the color mark as possible.

- Maintain a six foot distance from those around you at all times. Carpet will be marked with tape to assist discerning distance during communion procession.
- New communion routes will be instituted for the north and south sides/sections of pews. Those sections will be communicated from the back corner of church, starting from front and moving to the back of church via the aisle next to the exterior north/south wall.

Thanks to parishioners for bearing the crosses above as we begin public worship. Let us rejoice to be able to receive the Lord Jesus again who will help us in times of trouble and transforming trouble into opportunities for grace, selflessness and service!

-The Parish Leadership Team, May 18, 2020