



HOLY TRINITY PARISH
GUIDELINES FOR RESUMPTION
OF PUBLIC MASSES
Revised June 10, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

On May 12 and revised on May 26 and June 9, Bishop Soto issued to the clergy detailed guidelines for the resumption of public Masses in the Diocese of Sacramento. Each parish is to apply the plan's protocols and recommendations to its own circumstances based on the church size, seating capacity and Mass attendance. We want to make sure the worship environment is as safe as possible following federal, state and local health guidelines.

The health and safety of all our parishioners is our paramount concern. This is nothing less than a moral obligation. Life is a precious gift from God, which we are bound to safeguard. The Bishop has asked us to do our part in following the required safety protocols; and we are asking each of you to do your part in respecting the practices that we will put into place for the protection of all those visiting our campus. Let us together heed Jesus' command that we love one another as he loves us.

I. DIOCESEAN GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The Bishop's dispensation of Sunday Mass obligation remains in effect for the faithful of ALL ages. However, we are to continue to observe the third commandment by keeping holy the Lord's Day.
2. Those who fall in the vulnerable category—persons age 65+ and those with compromised health conditions—are encouraged not to attend Mass.
3. A person who has a respiratory infection and may be exhibiting symptoms associated with the COVID-19 virus or otherwise is asked to refrain from attending.
4. New seating plans will provide for physical distancing of at least six feet between families and individuals and will be followed by every person including those who serve in the various liturgical ministries.
5. Therefore, each Mass will have a maximum cap of attendance.
6. Cleaning protocols will be undertaken before and after each Mass. Hand disinfectant will be available near the front doors and other areas of the church as needed.
7. Parishioners are required to wear masks during Mass, but must take them off after receiving the Body of Christ and stepping aside to consume the host.

II. BEFORE ARRIVING AT HOLY TRINITY

You should stay at home and not attend Mass if you feel unwell or are experiencing any symptoms of illness, especially: high temperature, cough, sore throat, chills, shortness of breath, recent loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches and/or stomach aches. Those who think they may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should not attend Mass.

III. WHEN PARKING YOUR VEHICLE

1. Due to construction in the area, there have been recent changes in the configuration and amount of traffic on the roads surrounding our parish campus. Please use due caution when entering and exiting the parking areas and driveways.
2. Please maintain physical distance from other people in the parking lots, walkways and throughout our campus.

IV. WHAT TO EXPECT AT CHURCH

1. As you arrive you will notice that the outside doors will usually be open to reduce “touch points.” As you enter the narthex, please disinfect your hands with the provided disinfectant.
2. Only one interior nave door on each side of the narthex (north and south) will be open to where the pews are located. Please follow the direction of our greeters to your designated pew and seat.
3. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected before and after Masses.
4. No songbooks, flyers or worship aids will be distributed. Bulletins will be provided as you leave the church.

V. SEATING

1. Please follow the direction of our greeters. Parishioners may not be able to sit in their preferred place to which they are accustomed.
2. Safe social distancing should be maintained while in church — at least 6 feet between family groups and individuals.

VI. WORSHIPING

1. Please do not hold hands during the Lord’s Prayer.
2. There will be no exchange of the Sign of Peace.

VII. RECEIVING COMMUNION

1. Those receiving Holy Communion should maintain social distancing in the procession by observing the six-foot distance marks on the floor. The flow of communion lines will be revised to provide for adequate social distancing.
2. Please follow the direction of the greeters.
3. Facemasks are to be worn in the Communion Procession and while receiving the host. After stepping to the side, please take the mask off and receive the Body of Christ.
4. It is highly recommended that the faithful receive the Body of Christ on the hand only.
5. The restriction on the distribution of the Blood of Christ to the faithful is still enforced.
6. If you need a gluten-free host, please notify the deacon or priest before Mass.
7. For those serving as ministers of Holy Communion (clergy and laity), facemasks must be worn during Mass and distribution of the Body of Christ.

VIII. LEAVING THE CHURCH

Please leave in an orderly and paced manner while maintaining social distancing.

IX. IF INFECTED WITH COVID-19

Should you become infected with COVID-19 after resuming public Mass attendance, we urge you to notify the parish office so that we can inform the diocese, local health authorities and parishioners.

X. FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the Bishop's detailed diocesan guidelines available on our parish website. Those serving in liturgical ministries are especially encouraged to do so.