

Church of the Assumption, 51 7th St. W, St. Paul, MN 55102

December 1, 2021

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Public Liturgies

Church of the Assumption's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan documents policies, practices and conditions to meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health industry guidelines, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration for safely celebrating Mass during the COVID pandemic.

Expectations of parishioners prior to, during, and after attendance at Mass:

- Parishioners should conduct a self-check and stay home if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.
- In accordance with Archdiocesan and state guidelines, those with higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home and attend the video Mass.
- On-site signage will communicate the necessary protocols.
- Wearing a facemask is strongly encouraged when attending Mass.
- If a parishioner or household member of a parishioner tests positive with COVID-19 following Mass attendance, they are advised to contact the parish office as soon as possible.

Cleaning and disinfection protocols:

- Every day high touch items including pews, collection boxes and railings, will be sanitized according to CDC guidelines.
- Should it be determined a parishioner, volunteer, priest, or staff member is diagnosed with COVID, extra attention will be given to cleaning protocols. More extensive sanitization will be undertaken if necessary.
- The parish will adhere to Archdiocesan directives regarding the safe care and sanitization of Communion vessels.

Building ventilation protocols:

- The air handler will be on anytime there are parishioners in the church, set for a minimum of 75% fresh air. A higher-grade filter will be installed and changed regularly.

Signage and communication:

- The COVID-19 Preparedness Plan will be posted in visible locations within the church.
- Should the parish need to communicate a COVID infection related to the church, this will occur via email and/or on the church website.

Steps during Mass and Holy Communion to limit contact:

- Communion Ministers will use hand sanitizer prior to initiation, and repeat use after touching their face, coughing, or sneezing, or touching of another person.
- Receivers should move their mask to receive Holy Communion only once they have turned away from the Communion Minister.
- Communion will be distributed hand to hand. Should someone present wanting to receive on the tongue, they will be directed to receive from the priest.