



## ATTENDING MASS IN PERSON

Our Christmas Mass schedule remains the same as last year:

**Christmas Eve - Masses at 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day - Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.**

For those wishing to attend Mass in person, reservations are required so that we can stay within safe and legal capacity limits. Seats can be reserved [HERE](#). When making a reservation you will receive an email confirmation. You must present that confirmation to get into Mass. You will be able to reserve a limited number of spots for the Church or the Lower Church, where the Mass is broadcasted on large screen televisions. The Church will be open 30 minutes prior to each Mass to allow adequate time to sanitize the Church. Finally, we ask that everyone on the reservation arrive and be seated at the same time.

If there are no seats available for Mass when you go online, we encourage you to check back. We recommend you check the website regularly and especially before leaving to attend Mass. With the current state of the pandemic, we know that changes may need to be made quickly.

## CANCELING A RESERVATION

Should you make a reservation to attend Mass but then are unable to make it, we ask that you cancel your reservation. It is easy to do by just clicking a link that will be included in your email confirmation. That way someone else will be able to reserve those spots.

## COMING TOGETHER SAFELY – PREPARING FOR MASS

- **If you are ill**, experiencing any symptoms of COVID19, or caring for someone who is ill, please stay home.
- **Common COVID-19 symptoms include:** Fever or feeling feverish; chills; a new cough; shortness of breath; a new sore throat; new muscle aches; new headache; new loss of smell or taste.
- **Persons 65 years of age and older, and those with serious health conditions** are encouraged by the MN Department of Health not to attend Mass.
- **Wear a mask.** For everyone's protection, masks are required for all who are over the age of two. Please bring one. A limited supply will be available at the entrances.
- **Be patient and kind**, especially to our hospitality ministers who will be providing direction for everyone's safety.
- **Kindly follow the instructions** listed here and on signage outside and inside the church.
- **Be prepared to stay in your car until the church is sanitized between Masses.** Outside signs will let everyone know when the church is ready.
- **Know that our seating capacity is extremely limited** and in some cases will be lower to observe proper social distancing requirements. The lower level of the church, with two large video screens, will be available for limited overflow seating.
- **Follow best hygiene practices.** Wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes.
- **Prepare to drop your donation before Mass begins.** During this time, no collections will be taken during

Mass. Donation boxes are at the church entrances.

- **Please go to the bathroom** before coming to church. Bathrooms are available, but we ask that you limit their use as much as possible.
- **Please do not congregate before or after Mass.**

### **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE**

To help keep you safe, the following modifications will be made:

- There will be no missalettes in the pews. A worship aid will continue to be posted online and daily readings can be accessed at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).
- Weather permitting, church doors will be propped open.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the church entrances.
- Cleaning and sanitizing will happen after each Mass.
- Pews will be roped off to insure proper social distancing and the maximum number of parishioners allowed in the building.

### **THE MASS EXPERIENCE WILL BE DIFFERENT**

While Jesus is still present in our gathering, in the Word and in the Eucharist, the Mass experience will be different. For everyone's safety here are some necessary changes:

- There will be no congregational singing. The cantor will be in the loft and congregants are asked to pray and sing silently in their hearts.
- Please remember to social distance. Every third pew is available allowing 9-11 feet between pews. Also, Assumption's pews come with a natural 7-foot divider, left to right. They help show the proper distance to keep from one another.
- The Sign of Peace is offered without any physical contact. A kind nod will do.
- Communion will be distributed after the conclusion of the Mass. See more below.
- Go in Peace. As great as it is to see others, please do not congregate in the church, on the stairs, sidewalks or in the parking lot. Let's save social gatherings for when is safe to do so.
- If by some chance you or someone in your household who attended Mass tests positive for COVID-19 please contact the parish office.

### **RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Communion will be distributed after Mass. For those who choose not to receive Communion, please exit in a manner that maintains the 6-foot social distancing when Mass is concluded. For those receiving:

- Eucharistic Ministers will be stationed by the church doors. Hospitality ministers will dismiss the pews for communion.
- When you get in line to receive communion, please remember to social distance.
- You are encouraged to sanitize your hands before receiving communion.
- Keep your face mask on while the minister holds up the host and says, "the Body of Christ." Reply, "Amen." Fully extend your hand to receive.
- Receive communion in the hand, step to the side, remove your mask and consume.
- If the minister touches your hand while giving you communion, he or she will sanitize their hands before giving the next person communion.
- Please leave church after receiving communion.

### **REQUIRED LEGAL DISCLAIMER**

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists anywhere people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, individuals over 65 years old and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

Assumption Church has undertaken precautionary cleaning, disinfecting, and implemented social distancing guidelines to help reduce the risk of exposure. However, Assumption Church cannot guarantee that visitors are 100% safe from exposure to COVID-19. Therefore, Assumption Church recommends that people over 65 or with underlying health conditions not attend mass at this time and continue to worship online. Attendance at liturgies is at your own risk.