

Please Read Carefully and Fully Comply with these Procedures if you decide to return to Mass

THE CHURCH OF EPIPHANY, BRICK, NEW JERSEY COVID-19 MASS PROCEDURES, JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

May our loving God bless us as we begin this new chapter of celebrating Mass here at The Church of Epiphany.

Let's premise these guidelines with the knowledge that everything is being done to protect our Parish Family from this dreaded virus.

Directives from the Diocese of Trenton and our government are continuing to arrive. Although we strive to plan for things, please know everything is constantly evolving and may change without notice.

- Masses will be at 5 pm on Saturday, 8am & 10:30am on Sunday. We will continue to live-stream the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, as we have in the past few months.
- **The church will be unlocked 30 minutes prior to Mass so all can gain a spaced and controlled entrance to the Worship Area. Doors will be closed and locked when we reach the established capacity of 150 people or when the services begin and will not be opened until Mass is over. Please plan accordingly.**
- Please be advised: **a dispensation from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass was granted to all of the faithful through Sunday, September 6, 2020.** Those older than 65 with a compromised health condition, those who are ill, those who care for the sick and those whose immune system is compromised or at risk, are strongly encouraged to stay home for their own safety and as an act of justice to our Parish community. **Therefore, there is no need for these individuals to attend until there are more restrictions lifted.**
- As much as we are all going to be so happy to see everyone, **it is necessary to keep safe distance at all times, which includes the parking lots and lines to access the Church.** There will be no congregating in the Commons Area before or after these Masses. In order to be in compliance with current Covid-19 regulations, social distancing of 6 feet or more will be in effect and your cooperation with this matter is imperative and expected.
- **You must enter through the main doors.** All other doors will remain closed/locked.
- **At this time there will not be physical bulletins nor Worship books provided. Holy Water fonts will remain empty. Key Point: Please refrain from touching anything or anyone when you come to these weekend Masses.**

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- At the request of the Diocese, **we will not use music books until further notice. Singing is discouraged by the Diocese of Trenton.** Our cantors and musicians will provide music for us in this controlled environment.
- Highly touched common areas of the church will be disinfected after each Mass.
- We ask that you write a prayer request at home and place it in the basket receptacle.
- **All Holy Water has been removed.**

LET'S BEGIN WITH WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Please take your temperature and wash your hands thoroughly before coming to church. If you are sick or have a temperature, please stay at home!
- **You MUST have and wear a mask to enter church and you MUST leave it on during Mass with the exception of receiving the Holy Eucharist. Children over two MUST have a mask.**
- At all times – please practice safe distancing. This means **NO HUGGING or shaking hands.** Please remember the no touching rule!!!
- Adhere to the following procedure for receiving the Holy Eucharist:
- Father Mike, a Deacon and/or another Minister of Communion will be coming around to each seated person to offer Communion. You will **NOT** line up and receive Communion as in the past.
- Follow all guidelines while at church. This is for protection of you and others.

WHERE WILL I ENTER & WHERE WILL I SIT?

- You may enter through the main doors to the Worship Area only.
- **You will not be able to enter the Worship Space through any other doors.** At this time the Masses are being offered, the Parish Office and restrooms are **unavailable. Please plan accordingly.**
- **The worship space seating is marked with crosses on the seats to facilitate 6 feet distancing.** Those people who reside in the same home may sit together in one aisle without distancing themselves. **All others need to keep at least a 3-chair distance, either to the right or the left of the group or individual next to you in an aisle.**

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF CONCERN

- **Please do not hold hands during the Our Father.**
- **There will be no sign of Peace. Please do not touch anyone during the Sign of Peace.**
- **Remember, no touching!!**
- There will not be any Presentation of Gifts.

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- **Collection basket will be in the Commons Area before and after each Mass so collections will not be taken up during these Masses.**
- **Candles are not available at this time due to restricted foot traffic within the Worship Area. Statutes have been removed as well. The expectation regarding restricted foot travel is when you enter the Worship Area, take your seat and remain at your seat until dismissed, row by row after Mass is over to maintain safe social distancing.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

- **Please bring your own hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes to use prior to Communion.**
- Please remain seated until being approached by the Minister of Communion. You are then asked to stand to receive the Holy Eucharist.
- **Remove gloves if you are wearing them. Do not remove your mask until you have said Amen after receiving the Holy Eucharist in your hand.**
- The Minister of Communion will wear a mask.
- **At this time, you can only receive Holy Communion in the hand. There will be no Precious Blood distributed.**
- **Please stay as far away from the Minister of Communion as possible.**
- Should there be a need, Father or a Minister will go to the Credence Table to utilize the hand sanitizer, if they deem it necessary.

What to do when Mass is over?

- Please wait for Father Mike to leave the Worship Area after he concludes the Mass.
- Everyone should remain seated and please follow the directions of the Ushers who will release everyone aisle by aisle starting at the back of the Worship Area
- Do not congregate in the Commons Area or outside the Church but return immediately to your vehicle and depart the premises.

Thank you for your time and attention to these new requirements. They are meant to keep all of us safe here within our Parish of Epiphany during these trying times.