

May 30, 2020

Re-Opening of Mass at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception: Common Questions

Dear Cathedral Parish Family,

Cathedral Church will be following the Diocese of Crookston Safety Protocols for Public Worship amidst COVID-19. These protocols can be found on our website at www.crookstoncathedral.com. The main church area, Gathering Space, bathroom, and entry way will be disinfected between each Mass. Please find below some common questions you might have upon re-opening of Mass at Cathedral Church.

Am I obligated to come to Mass? No. According to Bishop Hoepfner's most recent letter, "The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday remains in place. And if the faithful feel safer at home, they should not come to church. Period. We encourage those over the age of 65 or who are especially vulnerable to not attend but we will certainly not turn them away if they choose to come."

When can I arrive to Mass? Ushers will open the doors when they are ready to seat one person or family at a time. If you arrive before the doors open, please maintain a six foot distance between the person or family in front of you.

Will there be Confession available before Mass? No, not at this time.

Where will I sit? Most likely, not in your usual spot ☺. An usher will greet you at the front door of the church to lead you or your immediate family to a pew. Ushers will seat people as they arrive from the front of the church to the back. Pews are marked with colored dots 6 feet apart to ensure 6 foot social distancing is followed. Please stay on your dot in your pew. Thank you for your flexibility in sitting where the ushers seat you. This allows for ease in sanitizing and following social distancing protocols. Two out of every three pews have a sign on them marked "not in use."

Can I sit with my family? Those who are living in a common household and/or freely move in and out of a household (extended family members) do not need to social distance within a pew.

Do I need to wear a mask? Masks are highly encouraged (except children who are under age 2). An usher will offer you a mask if you do not have one (it is yours to keep!). Let's do our part to keep each other and our priests healthy!

Will the doors remain open during Mass? The back church doors will remain open as well as the outside doors (weather permitting) to increase ventilation. Feel free to bring a sweater if you desire.

Which restroom(s) will be open? The restroom in the Gathering Space will be open during Mass. Please maintain social distance while waiting for the restroom if it in use.

Will there be music/singing during Mass? There is to be no congregational or choir singing at this time. Hymnals and Missalettes have been removed from the pews.

Will there be an offertory collection? Baskets will not be passed in the pews during Mass. A basket will be available on either side of the main church upon entering designated for offertory donations.

How will I receive communion? Right in your pew. Fr. Vincent or a Deacon will be wearing a mask and will move in in front of your pew (with one pew distance in between) to distribute Communion. The cup/Blood of Christ will not be offered at this time. Fr. Vincent will have a hand sanitizing cloth available to him as needed during communion. You do not need to remove your whole mask to receive communion, simply lift up the bottom and then re-cover.

What happens after Mass is finished? Please stay in your pews, seated. The ushers will lead each person or family out one by one to the church exit.

Will Mass still be offered online? Yes, Mass will continue to be recorded or live-streamed and will be available on our website, www.crookstoncathedral.com.

How is Cathedral staff doing to increase the safety and health of its parishioners? We have been working hard for your return and are excited to be able to celebrate Mass with a congregation again. We have a Leadership Team that has been preparing for the re-opening of Mass to make sure that is opened safely. We have prepared our environment to limit the need for touching surfaces while you are here and to follow public health guidelines. We have ordered masks to have on hand for anyone that does not have one. We will sanitize surfaces and high-touch areas in between Masses. We have emptied the holy water fonts. All hymnals and materials have been removed from the pews. Our ushers will ensure one-way traffic patterns and social distancing by guiding you in and out of your pews. Parish staff involved in the liturgy will take their temperature upon arrival. We will continue to offer recorded or live-streamed Masses.

How can I do my part to increase the safety and health of other parishioner and our Deacons and priests? Please wear a mask to Mass and keep it on during the entirety of Mass. If you have recently traveled out of the area, we respectfully ask that you stay home for 14 days. If you feel sick or have a cough or a fever, please do not attend. Please do not greet each other by touching. If you have small children attending Mass with you, please speak to them prior to Mass to let them know how things will be different.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we approach this “new normal” together as the body of Christ!