

Directives on Attending Mass

1. N
O ONE IS OBLIGED TO ATTEND MASS until we learn more about this virus and can respond appropriately. In the meantime we, like our forefathers, will respond with an abundance of caution by controlling as many variables as possible.

2. W
ear old clothes because the Church will be dusted with FOOD GRADE Diatomaceous Earth as a way of mitigating potential community spread. Diatomaceous Earth is a highly absorbent dust that is intended to prevent pathogens from setting up camp on our church furniture. Consider it your own share in the biblical practice of sitting “in sack cloth & ashes”.

3. D
o not enter the Sanctuary, which has already been roped-off. That goes for you too. Because: should the ritual elements (wine/water/patens/ciboria, etc.) of The Holy Sacrifice be “unintentional” contaminated it could threaten the health of those who have chosen to attend.

4. I
strongly advise everyone attending Mass or any of our Lenten Spiritual Exercises to take their temperature 3 times daily (before leaving home, afternoon & before bed). This is the precautionary regimen of everyone in our roped off sanctuary.

5. If
you have had a temperature within the past 48hrs you are not welcome to attend Mass. Violation of this rule should be considered reckless disregard for the well-being of your neighbor.

6. M
y advice on receiving Holy Communion: First, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RECEIVE Holy Communion to fulfill your Sabbath so,

if you feel uncomfortable approaching the sanctuary DO NOT DO SO. This leads to the next directive...

7. Re
member, there will be no ushers, no collection, no offertory procession and no release of each pew (one pew at a time) at the distribution of Holy Communion. NO ONE should feel pressured to approach the sanctuary should they feel uncomfortable doing so. Remember, “muscle memory” is not your friend right now. Likewise...

8. ...
we will not be receiving Holy Communion as normal. IF YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE APPROACHING you should find a place to stand/kneel along the perimeter of the roped sanctuary. A deacon or myself will reverently, carefully make our way to you. PLEASE BE PATIENT.

9. Ke
ep in mind: The “Dine & Dash” communion line may be fast but, IT IS NOT SAFE.

10. O
nce you find a place to stand or kneel “along the roped edge of the sanctuary” I advise you to receive Holy Communion “on the tongue” because if the CDC has advised us not to use our hands to rub our eyes or scratch our noses we probably shouldn’t be eating with our hands either. Remember, the Deacons and I will have well sanitized hands.