

May 1: Updated Pastoral Directive from the Bishop

1. The safest place for all of us to worship continues to be at home, where we can maintain maximum social distancing. Individuals with significant health problems including obesity, lung, liver, kidney or heart disease or those who have impaired immune systems, including those on chemotherapy for cancer, should take the maximum measures to stay safe during this pandemic and should refrain from attending public worship.
2. The dispensation from physical Communion continues through the end of June for all of our senior members or at-risk members and anyone concerned about being infected with the virus or infecting others with the virus. This will require a continued online offering of worship and Spiritual Communion integrated into the liturgy.
3. The norm for reception of the Eucharist will continue to be in “one kind” through the end of June.
4. For us to safely gather in groups, we will have to maintain social distancing by household. Alternating pews or spacing between chairs will need to be maintained in the nave and elsewhere.
5. Hand sanitizing for all members before and after worship services is encouraged. Clergy should sanitize their hands before and after distribution of Communion or after any contact is made with someone else.
6. Church surfaces and items that are regularly touched must be sanitized before and after gatherings.
7. The alms basin or collection plate must not be passed but can be set out in an area where people can make their offerings.
8. Dismissal should be done by pew or household to avoid a gathering at the door.
9. All attendees are encouraged to wear face coverings or masks out of love for one another.
10. Please do not shake hands or hug at the Peace. A simple verbal greeting, or head nod, is sufficient.
11. All other church meetings and gatherings outside of Sunday worship services need to observe social distancing guidelines and are at the discretion of the Rector or Vicar.

Additional Notes:

- While all doors can be opened from the inside to exit, we ask that you enter through the one door staffed by an usher who will open the door for you. Some interior doors will be propped open for your use; please leave them that way. Please do not open doors that are closed.
- Alms basins are placed by each door. Please add your contribution prior to sitting down.
- Distribution of communion will be from station(s) by the Altar rail. Receive the host from the priest while remaining standing. Keep the host in your hand while returning to your pew. Consume the host once you are back in your pew where it is safer to remove your mask.
- The Ushers will release pews for the Distribution of Communion as well as at the Conclusion of the Mass. Please remain in your pew until released.
- During the Healing Mass on Saturday, those wishing prayer and anointing should come forward to the priest, keeping safe distance between yourself and others. The priest will hold his hands over your head during the prayer and then, should you desire, he will anoint your forehead using a cotton swab.
- Disinfecting wipes are in each bathroom. Please wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water and then use a wipe to cleanse the faucet handles. Use that wipe to then open the door and deposit the wipe in the receptacle in the hallway.