

# CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR MASS

*AS OF JANUARY 22, 2021*

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Highlighted text is specific to attendees, remaining text more general parish safety practices.

### Pre-Mass

- Any of the faithful who are ill, experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or caring for someone who is ill are asked to refrain from attending Mass in the Church.
- Persons 65 years of age and older, and those with serious health issues, are encouraged for their own physical health and well-being to not attend Mass in church per the MN Department of Health guidelines. (Our Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM will continue to be live-streamed each weekend on Facebook, YouTube and local CTV channel 15 or 859.) However, your spiritual health is important to us and we will not turn people away unless we reach the maximum number allowed.
- Face coverings or masks are **required** for all attendees 2 years of age and older.
- Doors will open ½ hour prior to the start of Mass. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass so you can be safely seated before Mass begins.
- Please keep your household socially distanced at least 6 feet from other attendees as you enter and leave the campus, wait on sidewalks to enter, and walk through the parking lot and other common spaces. Please keep small children close and do not allow them to wander.
- Exterior and interior doors will be propped open when possible to minimize contact with door handles. The south doors of the church will only be used as exits and not entrances.
- Households, please stay together as you enter in order to be seated together.
- You will be required to sanitize your hands when you enter the church. Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrances of the church.

- Families are encouraged to bring coloring books or quiet toys for their children during Mass as we will not have the Mass Activity Bags available.
- The collection will be taken by ushers during offertory. Please remain in place and the ushers will come to you. Please consider online donations if possible.
- Mass attendance is limited to 50% of capacity (550 people) with social distancing maintained. When seating is maximized with social distancing, Mass attendees will be directed to overflow seating in St. Joseph Hall which has a capacity of 180. Signs will be posted as reminders to maintain safe distancing and sanitary guidelines.
- High-use areas of the church, including restrooms, will be disinfected before and after each liturgy.
- Baptismal and holy water fonts will remain empty.
- Pews are marked off to provide proper spacing. Please maintain social distancing. Please sit only in the pews indicated by the signs.
- Holy Communion will be distributed during the Mass to the congregation in the pews.
- After the Mass is over please maintain social distancing as you exit the church.

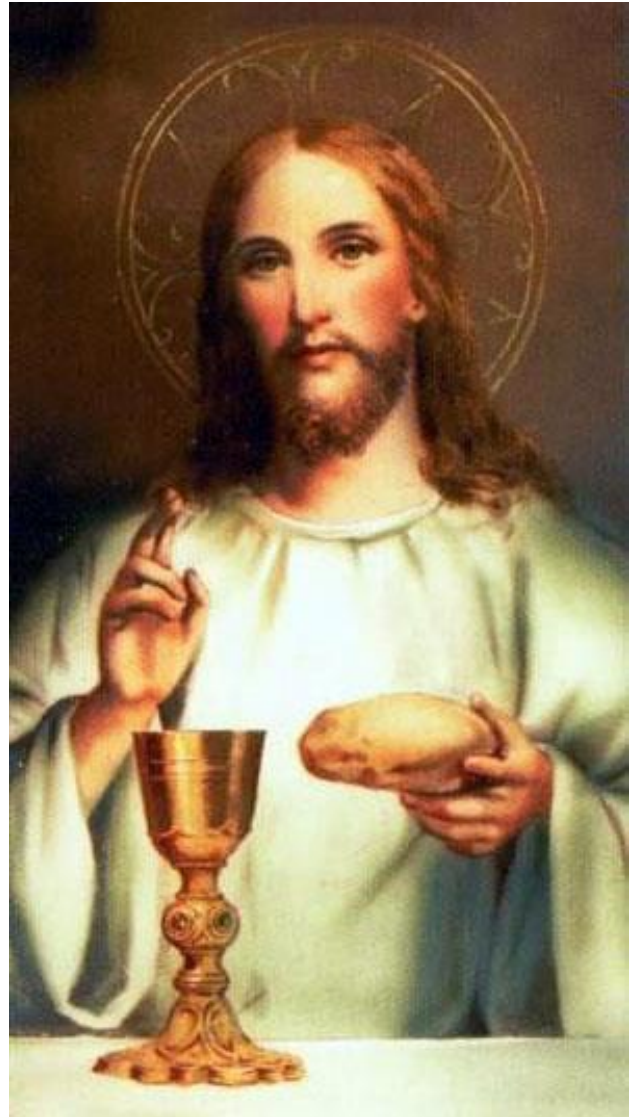
### During Mass

- We have modified our singing and ask those singing to sing softly.
- The offering of a physical sign of peace is permitted only between households. We encourage you to smile, nod, or wave to others and wish them verbally the peace of Christ.

**Please see back for procedures for the reception of Holy Communion.**

## Reception of Holy Communion

- Communion will be distributed during Mass. Parishioners can remain in their pews as Holy Communion is brought to them.
- Clergy and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will sanitize their hands and then distribute Holy Communion while wearing protective masks.
  - During the distribution of Holy Communion, please maintain reverent silence in the church.
  - After Mass, you are welcome to pray in the Chapel of the Angels or proceed out to your car. We encourage you to take some time to pray and be with the Lord in that moment. Pray the Litany in Time of Need which can be found on our website.
- We strongly recommend that you receive Holy Communion in the hand.
  - You may not wear gloves while receiving; you cannot receive the Eucharist in a disposable item such as a cup, tissue or plate.
  - If you choose to receive Communion on the tongue, the minister will sanitize his hands before distributing Holy Communion to the next person.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed at this time.
- Keep your face mask on while the minister holds up the Sacred Host and says, “The Body of Christ.” Reply, “Amen,” and then remove your face mask to receive Communion.



## Post Mass

- Disposable liturgy guides will be available at Sunday Masses; please deposit the guides in the blue recycling receptacles as you exit.
- After Mass, you may pick up a bulletin on your way out; you may also access our bulletin online.
- Please do not congregate outside the church doors or in the parking lot to visit before or after Mass. We need to be sure that we are following social distancing guidelines if we expect to remain open for public celebrations of the Mass.

**Please check parish website ([www.stjohnnb.com](http://www.stjohnnb.com)) before heading to Mass in case of changes.**

Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life: GO. MAKE. TEACH.