

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR MASS

AS OF MAY 28, 2021

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.
- For those who wish to join us virtually, 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.
- Face coverings or masks are **recommended** for unvaccinated attendees.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass so you can be safely seated before Mass begins.
- 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 to be seated together.
- You will be invited 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.
- When seating is maximized, Mass attendees will be directed to overflow seating in St. Joseph Hall. Signs will be posted as reminders for sanitary guidelines.
- High-use areas of the church, including restrooms, will be cleaned, and disinfected as needed before and/or after each liturgy.
- The baptismal font will be filled. Touchless Holy Water dispensers are located near the confessionals.
- Some pews are marked off to provide proper spacing. Please do not sit in pews that are indicated with signs. The seating area in the center two sections and near the St. John the Baptist icon are open seating with no required social distancing. Seating in the two pie sections will remain every other pew. Please maintain appropriate distancing when sitting in these sections.

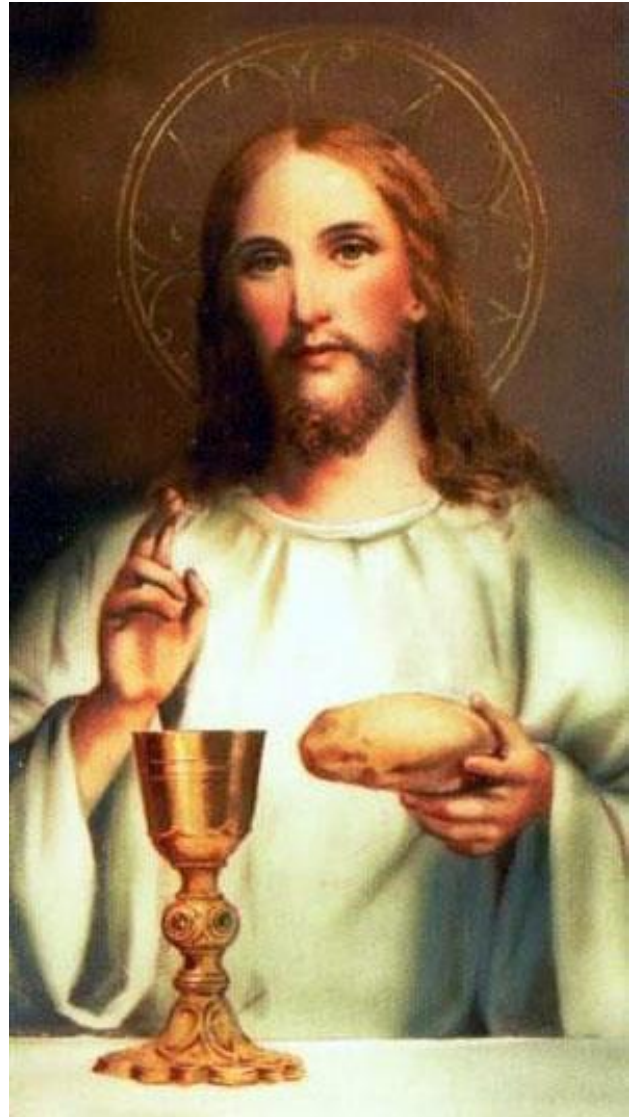
During Mass

- We have modified our singing and ask those singing to sing softly.
- The offering of a physical sign of peace is permitted only within 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 with communion lines coming forward from the main seating sections of the church. Please follow usher's directions and maintain appropriate distancing when processing forward. A Eucharistic Minister will bring Communion to people in the handicapped seating area and in chairs at the back of the church, and to any overflow seating outside of the church space.
- Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will sanitize their hands on entering the sanctuary and again after their own reception of the Eucharist. All ministers will wear masks while distributing Holy Communion.
- We strongly recommend that you receive Holy Communion in the hand.
 - You may not wear gloves while receiving; you may not 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 or her hands before distributing Holy Communion to the next person.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed at this time.
- If you are wearing a mask, 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

- Liturgy guides will be available at Sunday Masses. Please replace the guides for reuse at the exits.
- Church bulletins are available both before and after Mass. You may also access our bulletin online.

**Please check parish website (www.stjohnnb.com)
before heading to Mass in case of changes.**