

## ST. IGNATIUS THE MARTYR PARISH

June 15, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

We expect to be open for Mass on the weekend of June 20-21.2020 for the 4:30 Saturday and Sunday at 10:00am. Weekday mass including Saturday morning will be at 8:30am.

However, we must be aware that reopening is not without risks to the health of those working in these buildings **and the public participating in celebrations especially the elderly and those with health issues, we encourage you to say home and be safe.** Our responsibility as a religious institution is to ensure the health of parishioners attending our places of worship to the best of our abilities.

The Government of Ontario is extremely clear about the potential risks associated with reopening and has provided a number of procedures to ensure the safest operation possible. The following are directives from the Archdiocese and the government.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ATTENDING CHURCH

IF ANY OF THESE APPLY TO YOU

- Any of the following symptoms: fever, coughing and wheezing, fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, excessive sputum, aching muscles, headaches, chills, confusion, runny nose, or shaking
- Contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Left the country or the province in the past 14 days
- Awaiting test results from your own COVID-19 test

### **Reopening of Our Churches**

As you know, the Premier of Ontario has indicated we are entering Phase Two of the re-opening of the economy and return to permitted activities. One of these allows for use of churches—up to 30% of the building's capacity (for us that is 60) —on condition of strict adherence to the social

distancing and other measures needed to assure safety and health precautions are observed.

### **The Universal Application of Physical Distancing**

In all cases, when community gatherings take place, or when individuals are using the church or other facilities, **a physical 2 m (6 ft) distance, is to be strictly maintained.**

It is recommended that anyone stationed at an entranceway, where there will be a great number of people passing, wear a mask/face covering and disposable gloves (or ensure that hands are washed or sanitized on a frequent basis).

In order to mitigate the potential spread of the virus, the Chief Medical Officer for the Province of Ontario, is asking that all those over the age of 3 wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing is not possible. **While not mandatory, they are highly recommended for the congregation. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to self-screen before attending church, including taking their temperature. Those with a temperature at or above 37.5 C/99.5 F are asked to not attend Mass.**

Those who exhibit fever or any other indications of a viral infections are asked to seek medical attention before coming to church.

### **Capacity Control**

Even though many people may still choose to stay home, churches will face the challenge of determining how to ensure compliance with capacity restrictions. To help regulate capacity, parishes may wish to consider the following: First come, first served – line up similar to what is done at other businesses currently open with limited capacity. However, once open, it is important that a volunteer be responsible for ensuring the church is not over capacity at any time.

### **Cleaning of Churches**

All staff or volunteers engaged in cleaning should wear a mask and disposable gloves, wherever possible. **Volunteers are needed for each mass. Please contact Father Saviour if you can help!**

All surfaces (floors, seating, kneelers) are to be wiped at least once per week with warm water and an approved multi surface cleaner / disinfectant

purporting to kill 99.9% of germs and viruses (note this would include products like Lysol, Pine-Sol, etc). It is recommended all pew fronts and the tops and sides of benches are to be wiped with a sanitizing agent after each event.

During the week, if the church is open for private prayer or for liturgies with small groups, it is recommended that seating be restricted to minimize cleaning areas.

It is generally accepted that any surface contagion on floors, pews and other surfaces will live no longer than 72 hours. If there are gaps of 72 hours between the use of the church, no further cleaning/disinfecting need take place.

### **Church Entrances**

**It is recommended that the doors of the church should be open to avoid contact with handles. A single entrance should be used wherever possible. Where possible it is preferred that a different door be used as an exit.**

### **Confessionals**

Confessionals are closed to ensure physical distancing. Make arrangement with Father to go to confession. Penitents are encouraged to wear a mask/face covering.

### **Crying Rooms**

This room is to be closed.

### **Disinfectant Hand Sanitizer**

**Each parishioner should be directed to sanitize their hands before entering the church.** A volunteer may also assist with dispensing sanitizer.

### **Holy Water Fonts**

Holy water fonts are to remain empty until such time as they may be used safely.

### Hymnals, Prayer Books, Envelopes

To avoid surface contact, all hymnals, prayer books and other papers have been removed from the pews at this time. Bulletins should be posted electronically and not distributed at this time.

**Announcements regarding the reception of Holy Communion, departure and other details to be made prior to the beginning or conclusion of the liturgy.**

### Seating

**During the pandemic, to ensure that physical distancing takes place, seating is staggered in patterns to promote two metre (six-foot) distances. Seats are designated by white tape markings where to sit. Families from the same household may be seated together but must be 2 m (6 ft) from any non-household members.**

### Washrooms

Church washrooms are to be restricted to use when absolutely necessary only.

## **Celebration of the Eucharist**

### The Assembly

All in the assembly (with the exception of the priest and ministers) are strongly encouraged to wear a mask upon the recommendation of the Ontario Medical Officer of Health. We will not be supplying them so bring them from home.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

The celebration of the Children's Liturgy of the Word is not permitted during the pandemic.

### Offertory

**The monetary collection is to be received at the doors of the church at the beginning or the end of Mass** where people can place their donations in baskets supervised by ushers from a safe distance.

**Upon the strong the recommendation of medical authorities, Holy Communion is received only in the hand at this time.** (Since each communicant has the right to receive communion either on the tongue

or in the hand, the traditional practice of the option of receiving on the tongue will be restored as soon as the public health situation allows for that). Communicants are instructed to remove their masks, using the straps and without touching the front of their masks, while the person ahead of them is receiving Holy Communion.

### **Concluding Rites**

**The concluding rites take place in the usual manner. Any necessary announcements may be made.**

**In particular, people are to be reminded to place their offerings in the baskets provided and to follow the direction of the ushers or ministers of hospitality when exiting the church in an orderly way, while maintaining physical distancing. Parishioners are instructed to leave the church without spending social time with the priest and fellow parishioners at the door or in the parking lot. The use of printed bulletins shall be suspended so as to reduce physical contact.**

**Blessing,**

**Father Savior O.F.M. Conv.**