



St. Michael's Catholic Church

St. Michael's protocol for celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies in the church

/based on the Diocese of Duluth COVID-19 Protocols/

Dear Parishioners,

With this letter I would like to inform you about the upcoming, limited opening of the church for Masses, weddings, baptisms, funerals and other liturgies, of more than 10 people. Based on the State's guidelines for faith-based communities, we can have 25% of the occupancy of the building. Giving our church (including choir loft) we can have up to 62 people in the church. 40 in the pews, 12 on two rows of chairs at the back of the church and 10 on the choir loft.

We will resume limited, public Masses on the weekend of **June 6/7** with two Masses at **5:00PM on Saturday** and **9:30AM on Sunday**. **The 5:00PM Mass on Sunday is temporarily suspended!!!**

At this moment, we do not know how many of you would like to participate at the weekend Masses so in order for you to be able to attend Mass we ask you to call 525-1902 or email the parish office at denise.connolly@duluthcatholic.org and reserve a place in the church by 4:00PM on Thursday.

When you call or email to reserve a place in the church, you will also be asked to help as an usher or to clean up the pews and door handles after the Mass. The parish will provide gloves and disinfecting wipes. This is an essential part of the protocol to be able to have the liturgies in the church.

Daily Masses will resume on **Tuesday, June 9**. Masses will be on **Tuesday and Friday at 5:00PM** and **Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00AM**. You do not need to register for daily Mass and all the guidelines must be followed.

Since Sunday obligation is suspended for now, I encourage you to participate in the Mass during the week.

Below, please find the shorter version of the Diocesan guidelines for attending the Mass and receiving Communion during COVID-19 pandemic. The full text of the Diocese of Duluth COVID-19 Protocols and the State of Minnesota guidelines for faith-based communities can be found on our parish website.

Please read carefully:

- ✓ **Until the crisis passes, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been lifted. No one should feel obliged to come to church.**
- ✓ **If you are not feeling well, 65 or older, or you have an underlying medical condition that puts you at risk for the virus, you are strongly urged to stay home.**
- ✓ **If church leadership becomes aware of a clear, immediate, and imminent threat to the safety of the congregation or determines that the above-mentioned protocols cannot be observed, the gathering will be cancelled until the protocols can be observed.**
- ✓ Practice social distancing of 6 ft. between people. Family members of the same household may sit together.
- ✓ No gathering of people before and after Mass/liturgy at any place in the building.
- ✓ On entering the church proceed directly to your seat. No greeting each other with touching.
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer on entering the building and at any time as needed. The church will provide hand sanitizer at all doors.
- ✓ The physical exchange of the sign of peace is suspended.
- ✓ There will be no singing during the Mass and no hymnals in the pews.
- ✓ Wearing of facemasks and gloves is highly encourage.

Entering the church:

- ✓ All enter through the front door only. All other doors will be locked.
- ✓ The usher, wearing facemask, will check your name against the signup sheet, and you will be directed to your seat.
- ✓ Collection basket will be placed at the gathering space for your offering. No collection during the Mass.
- ✓ Enter the main church through the center doors. The glass, side doors are only for exiting.
- ✓ Enter the pew from the main isle and position yourself in front of the blue tape sign beginning on the far end.

Communion time:

- ✓ During Communion time only the priest will receive Communion. The consecrated hosts will be placed in the tabernacle. The closing prayer and final blessing will be given.
- ✓ The priest then takes off the chasuble, proceeds to the tabernacle and brings the hosts to the altar. He lifts the host and says the prayer: "Behold, the Lamb of God..." and all respond: "Lord, I am not worthy..."
- ✓ The priest, and if there is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, take their places on the main floor.
- ✓ The priest and the Minister of Holy Communion will wear masks but no gloves.
- ✓ The faithful should wear masks when coming to Holy Communion but may not wear gloves (see the full text).
- ✓ They may use hand sanitizer before receiving Communion.
- ✓ No one is required to come forward to receive Communion who does not feel comfortable doing so.
- ✓ To receive Holy Communion please form a single line in the main isle, maintaining 6 ft. distance, indicated by yellow tape on the floor.
- ✓ Please come out one pew at a time to receive Communion, alternating between sides, leaving enough time and space for every person to feel comfortable.
- ✓ The faithful remove their facemasks as they approach the priest.
- ✓ Extend your open hand, as far as possible, towards the priest to receive Communion.
- ✓ Do not try to take the host from the priest's hand, in order to avoid skin contact.
- ✓ Please receive Communion only in the hand.
- ✓ Holy Communion will be given to the people only by the consecrated host.
- ✓ Return to your place by entering the pew from the side isle.

Exiting the church:

- ✓ You may exit the church through any door. Please utilize all the doors to reduce congestion.
- ✓ To exit the church please use the side isles.
- ✓ After receiving Communion, you may return to your pew and wait for the final prayer and dismissal.
- ✓ You may also exit the church directly to your car, after receiving Communion.

Other information:

- ✓ We will indefinitely continue to livestream our Mass on Sundays at 9:30AM on our website.
- ✓ If the number of people who would like to participate in the Sunday Mass will be greater than what we can accommodate in the main church, I am looking at having a large TV placed in the parish social hall for people to participate in the Mass and receive Communion.

Please contact the office if you have and questions regarding the parish protocol.

Fr. Andy, omi