

- The faithful will either remove face coverings prior to approaching for Communion, or immediately after receiving the host in their hand and moving six feet from the priest.

- The priest will perform hand hygiene after receiving Communion and prior to distributing communion. He may or may not wear a mask.

- The chalice will not be offered.

Volunteers may be enlisted to disinfect the Church following Masses.

Parish Plan for Re-opening of St. Mary's Church for Public Worship

In accord with NYS & diocesan guidelines issued by Bishop LaValley

Dear friends in Christ,

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

As we begin to gather once again in worship, these guidelines are intended to ensure the safety of all. Our adherence to these specifications will speed the return of our normal patterns of liturgy and life. Thank you for your attention to them.

Father Howard

SOCIAL DISTANCING & HYGIENE: Health authorities recommend frequent hand hygiene, vigilant social distancing, and the use of face coverings in public. Hand sanitizer has been placed at the entrances of the church. **Everyone should perform hand hygiene when entering and exiting the Church.**

The symptoms of infection for COVID-19 include a fever of 99.6 or higher, cough, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of taste or smell, and unexplained body aches. Anyone with these symptoms should remain home and not come to church for any reason. Anyone feeling sick should remain at home, and anyone who has been in close contact with a COVID positive individual should self-quarantine for fourteen days.

Social distancing calls for avoiding close contact with persons outside of one's household. This generally means avoid being within six feet of others, especially if this proximity will last fifteen minutes or more. Certain necessary tasks (purchasing food, medications, working in an essential business) may require that we come closer than six feet from others. These momentary interactions present an acceptable risk, especially when other precautions are taken. Reception of the Sacraments is important for the faithful in the midst of a pandemic, so similar guidelines should apply. Given how the virus is thought to spread, this risk is lower for brief encounters than in cases of prolonged contact.

General Provisions

A general dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in effect; during this time, please return to Mass when you consider it safe to do so.

Mary Immaculate, our Mother and our Patroness,
we ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our diocese, our nation and our world,
for our families and loved ones,
the protection of your Maternal mantle from this dreaded virus.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace and healing Presence of Jesus to our land
and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Keep us in the embrace of your arms,
Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus our Lord AMEN.

Thank you for your cooperation and God bless you!

LIMITED ATTENDANCE: At this point in time we are limited to **47 individuals** in designated places at Mass (due to social distancing requirements).; this number will be increased by households sharing an entire pew. When attending Mass, participants must respect signage and markers placed to assure safe social distancing.

- All persons who are at risk should remain home for their own safety.
- While there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, we encourage all people to grow in their relationship with the Lord, keep holy the Lord's Day, and maintain contact with their parish by prayer and watching the Mass over the internet or on television. Opportunities to virtually participate in Mass are available at the following sites or links:

Livestream

- St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg live at 8am Sunday, <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>
- St. Augustine's Church, Peru: Our Daily Mass is at 8am at our "Our Mother Mary"
Site: <https://www.facebook.com/ilovemothermary/> Sunday Mass is streamed at 9:30am <https://www.facebook.com/StAugustinesChurchPeruNY>

Cable television – depending on your coverage area

- St. André Bessette Parish, Malone from Notre Dame, Malone airs Thursday at 7pm and 9pm and Sunday at 9am on Spectrum channel 30.
- St. Bernard's Church, Mass from St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake or Church of the Assumption in Gabriels, airs on tape delay Sundays at 11am and 8pm on Spectrum channel 2.

- When it may be safely done, opportunities for those unable to attend Mass in person to receive the Eucharist will be provided. Please call the rectory and we will let you know if and when these opportunities may be available.

Screening and Hygiene

1. Hand sanitizer has been placed at the entrances of the church. Everyone should perform hand hygiene when entering and exiting the Church.
2. The faithful, 2 years of age and over, should wear cloth coverings over their face in public, including when they come to Church.
3. We will clean and disinfect the Church in accord with the recommendations of the New York State Department of Health and CDC guidelines.

Limited Mass Attendance & Social Distancing

At this time Mass attendance is limited to 47 INDIVIDUALS in designated places. WHILE INDIVIDUAL SPACES ARE MANDATED, HOUSEHOLDS OR ASSOCIATED PERSONS MAY SHARE A PEW, WHICH WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES.

- There will be signage and markings to help social distancing; pews will be marked.
- The faithful should maintain at least a six-foot distance from others outside their household.
- There should be no congregating in the church, entryways, parking areas or on the sidewalks.
- Members of a single household do not need to practice social distancing.
- Areas where the faithful may stand in line will have tape on the floor to indicate proper distancing.

Specific Provisions for Mass

- All music will be performed from the choir loft, but there will be no choirs at this time; a cantor must be 12 feet from others. **WHEN SINGING, THE CONGREGATION MUST WEAR MASKS.**
- Missalettes will not be used at this time; music may be provided on a disposable leaflet.
- Offertory procession will be omitted.
- There will be no sign of peace.

HOLY COMMUNION will be distributed after the Mass has been celebrated.

The congregation will approach for Holy Communion by way of the MAIN AISLE-BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST PEW ON THE LEFT SIDE FACING THE ALTAR, THEN THE FIRST PEW ON THE RIGHT SIDE, alternating until all have received and exited the Church—ALWAYS WITH STRICT SOCIAL DISTANCING, ACCORDING TO THE TAPED MARKS ON THE AISLE FLOOR. **Immediately after receiving the Eucharist, individuals will exit the Church** by way of the side aisle, using either front side exit or the ramp door near the main entrance. The Bishop suggests receiving Holy Communion by hand.