

# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH BRIGHTON

Updated Procedures for Attending Mass & Church Functions (February 16, 2021)

## THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ATTENDING MASS:

If you are in a high-risk category for contracting coronavirus or if you live or work with people in high-risk categories, please prayerfully consider whether or not to attend Mass or other public events. We have great trust in God to protect us, but we also want to use prudence in making the best decision not only for ourselves but out of charity for those around us.

- **PEOPLE WHO FEEL SICK or have ANY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS (i.e. fever, cough, etc.) SHOULD NOT ATTEND MASS** in a public setting.
- **PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING** should be maintained between separate households.
- **We urge those in attendance to WEAR A FACE COVERING.** Children under age 2 and certain health conditions are exempt. *Even if you do not feel the need to do so, wearing a face covering helps protect others in case you are infected but do not have symptoms and also shows care and consideration for your brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- We ask that you **BRING YOUR OWN HAND-SANITIZER** and clean your hands often, especially before receiving Holy Communion. Also **BRING A DISINFECTANT WIPE(S)** to clean around your family's pew and kneeler. *Please do not rely solely upon the parish for supplies or the parish staff to clean the entire church between Masses.*
- **PARENTS MAY WISH** to leave small children at home, if feasible. *Often, children who are not yet eligible to receive Communion lack the ability to follow hygienic and distancing guidelines that protect themselves and others.*
- **OFFERTORY COLLECTION BASKETS** will be available with an usher in the back of the church. *You can drop off your offering in person, with the Parish Office during the week or to give a one-time or recurring gift, go online to <https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1372> to donate.*
- **CONGREGATIONAL SINGING SHOULD BE TONED DOWN.** *Singing and vigorous speech increases the risk of viral spread through the aerosolization of droplets.* Hymnals have been removed but song lyrics are available via Worship Aids that you can bring with you as well as via a projector screen during Mass.
- **Remember to utilize SOCIAL DISTANCING in restrooms to the extent possible.**
- **ONCE THE CHURCH IS AT CAPACITY** (125 persons), be prepared to go to the Activity Center to watch Mass via video. *Anyone who is turned away due to capacity limits is asked to accept such a decision graciously and continue to offer your sacrifices for the benefit of all our brothers and sisters.*
- We may **take temperatures** with a digital thermometer before allowing entrance into the Sanctuary.
- **Holy Water fonts will remain empty** until further notice.
- **Socializing before and after Mass** should be kept to a minimum, keeping social distancing guidelines in mind. Feel free to visit one another outside of the church building.

## RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

- **An usher will dismiss each household by row (one household at a time) with Middle Pews going first, then Side Pews and then Activity Center.** Do not rush this. Take it slowly and follow their directions.
- **Keep at least two pews distance while in line for communion or follow distance markings on the floor.**
- **There will be no distribution of the Precious Blood.**
- **Holy Communion must be received in the hand and may NOT be distributed with gloves, nor may it be received in the hand if someone is wearing a glove.**

## KEEP IN MIND:

- Weekday Masses with smaller crowds provide other opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist.
- The obligation upon all Catholics to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended across the Diocese of Lansing until, at least, May 16, 2021.

We understand that Mass will have a different feel and appreciate your cooperation, support and patience. We look forward to the day that we will be able to all celebrate together as a faith family.