

Although a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is still in effect, Bishop da Cunha wanted to make Mass available for those who would like to attend and receive Communion. However, the State of Massachusetts and the Diocese of Fall River have issued guidelines to be followed for attending Mass. Please understand these are mandates, and we ask for your cooperation and patience.

HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ATTEND MASS

- ◆ Everyone must wear a mask that covers the nose and the mouth. The only exceptions are children under 2 and persons who have a medical reason for not wearing a mask. Putting a mask on children ages 2 to 6 will be at the parents' discretion.
- ◆ Everyone will enter by only one door—the door to the church hall on the Damien Hall side of the church.
- ◆ As you enter, you will sign your name and phone number. This is in compliance with the latest State and Diocesan directives for contact tracing.
- ◆ One of the regulations is that the church can only be filled up to 25% of its capacity. So, when you enter the church, a person will be there with a counter. *Unfortunately, once that capacity is reached, anyone arriving after will be asked to attend another Mass.*
- ◆ Inside the church the pews where you can sit are marked, as are the actual seats in the pews. You will be ushered to your seat.
- ◆ You must keep the mask on during and after Mass until you are outside again, obviously remembering social distancing.
- ◆ Only the cantor will sing the responses and hymns. Please do not sing.
- ◆ Of course, the Eucharist can only be received in the hand. The method to receive the Host is: pull down your mask and receive the Host in your hand, then step to the side to consume the Host and replace your mask.
- ◆ Communion will be distributed at the regular time, followed by the closing prayer and the final blessing. After you have received Communion, you may either leave immediately or go back to your seat and leave after the final blessing.

We're sorry for how different attending Mass is, but we have no choice. We are grateful, though, that we can worship together again—even under strange circumstances—and receive the Eucharist!