

## **Guidelines for the Attendance of Mass at Saint Boniface**

There is, for sure, a certain joy we feel to come back again as a Sunday people and a praying community to our beautiful church at Saint Boniface. There is also great anxiety that still exists knowing that we do not have a cure yet for this dreaded disease, and that it is still spreading.

**Even though Mass has begun to resume in our churches, the Bishop has still granted a special dispensation for ALL regarding the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of obligation.** If you are uncomfortable in attending Mass, Saint Boniface will still be recording and posting Sunday Masses on our website, <https://stboniface-lunenburg.org>

We also have for you Home Prayer kits to designate a special place of prayer and peace in your home as you celebrate Mass in your home.

Most importantly, for the safety of all in attendance, **if you feel sick, have been near someone who is sick or have discovered that you were exposed to someone who has been sick, please do not come to Mass.**

As we welcome you back, we must keep the following key rules in mind:

- Wear a face mask at all times (except to receive the Holy Communion)
- Maintain physical distance (at least 6 feet apart)
- Use hand sanitizer when asked

Going to the church, as you might expect, will look a little different as we continue to try to keep everyone safe from the spread of the coronavirus.

At Saint Boniface, we have the following procedures:

We will be using **one entrance** to enter the church. **Please use the side entrance that is located near the preschool** and across from the rectory. Therefore, it is best for you to use the upper parking lot when arriving to church.

Because of the restrictions determined by the Bishop, Saint Boniface has a limited number of **50 people** that can enter the church.

We have one greeter that will help monitor the number of people in attendance by use of the one entrance. **However, while all other entrances will not be used to enter the church, please note, that ALL entrances/exits are to be used for emergencies.**

- 1.) Upon your arrival, please place your mask on prior to leaving your vehicle. We will designate the proper social distancing with markers along the walkway to the entrance. Please, maintain these distances from the next group of household members. (All the members of one household can stay together and sit with each other in the church)
- 2.) At the entrance to the church, there will be hand sanitizers for you to use.
- 3.) Offertory Gifts- Collection baskets for the offertory will be at the entrance. We ask that you take this time to offer your gifts, as there will be no “passing of the basket” during the Mass. Online offertory is always available at our website for your convenience with use of debit card, credit card and electronic check.  
<https://stboniface-lunenburg.org/online-giving-options>
- 4.) An usher will greet you, provide directions, and help you to your seat. The church pews will be initially filled from the farthest point from the entrance. Please use the guidance of the usher when going to your seat. There will be two rows of pews that will separate the next available pew to be used. All pews will be marked accordingly as to what pews are available or unavailable for use.  
**Please note that all members of one household will be able to sit next to each other.** We will maintain the proper physical distancing from the next and different household.
- 5.) Missalettes- Upon entering the church, we will have missalettes made available to you that you can take and keep with you for all future masses. These missalettes were pre-coronavirus and will not be re-used during this time period. If you take a missalette to use, please bring it home and do not leave in the pews after Mass. It is now yours for future use. **NOTE: All missalettes left in the pews will not be re-used and will be discarded.**
- 6.) Sign of Peace- There will be no physical exchange of the sign of peace with your neighbor.

7.) **Communion** — The consecrated Host will be the only species that is given at Holy Communion. Please note all the following directions at the time of Holy Communion.

- All Eucharistic ministers will be wearing a face mask and their hands will be sanitized before administering communion. Communicants must stand 6 feet apart as indicated by marks in the aisle, keep their masks on until they approach the Eucharistic minister, then extend hands forward as much as possible to receive the host, and replace mask immediately after consuming the host.
- For public health consideration, we ask that all are to receive with the use of your open hands. If you are not choosing to receive communion, please cross your arms to each shoulder to indicate that you would like to receive a blessing and not the Eucharist.
- If at any time the Eucharistic minister comes in physical contact with the communicant during the process of administering communion, they will immediately stop and use the hand sanitizer before continuing to administer communion to anyone else.

8 ) Departing- As at all Masses, please wait for the priest to proceed before your departure from the church. On your departure, follow the directions of the ushers and exit the church keeping the proper physical distancing. **NOTE: At the conclusion of Mass, we are asked by the Bishop, not to have any gatherings with the priest and other different households.**

### **Sanitizing the Church**

After each Mass,

- the Church pews, the Hall, and bathrooms will be sanitized.
- Door handles and common surfaces will be sanitized
- All paper used and missalettes left behind will be disposed and not re-used at different masses.

We thank you for your understanding as we take these necessary measures which will allow us to resume the celebration of the Mass together.

Let us continue to pray for those families affected by the coronavirus, God's continued guidance of our healthcare providers, and for that day that these safety measures are no longer necessary.