

UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As the vaccine roll out continues across the country, the State of Georgia has relaxed restrictions in public places with regard to capacity requirements and social distancing measurements (please see Guidance for In-Person Operations at <https://www.georgia.org/covidfaq>).

While the Diocesan guidelines for Sunday Mass attendance will continue for the time being, all parishes will soon begin implementing the next phase of reopening protocols. It is expected that all parishes will be fully open by the first day of the 2021-2022 school year: August 9, 2021.

Let us move forward in unity and hope, confident in God's help.

NEW PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS

The following protocols are adopted from the Diocese of Savannah's Guidelines and will be observed in our Parish beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021:

- Tape and ropes marking off pews are to be removed and at least three feet of social distancing between households should be maintained. Each individual and household should take personal responsibility for their decisions and show respect for others.
- The wearing of masks inside the church and other parish buildings will continue to be observed.
- Holy Water will be re-introduced at the entrance of the church and will be refreshed on a regular basis.
- Hymnals and the Missalettes will be placed in the pews. Handling and use of these is a decision left to the individual.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance of the church and in the pews.
- Ushers and greeters should refrain from shaking hands as people enter.
- The Offertory Procession should take place.
- Altar servers should return to their pre-pandemic responsibilities.

- The Sign of Peace should take place with the invitation: “Let us wave at each other as a sign of peace”.
- Ministers of Holy Communion are required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands before distribution.
- The distribution of the Precious Blood to the faithful remains suspended.
- After-Mass fellowship may take place with individually wrapped food items and the observation of social distancing protocols as noted above.

Please note:

As of November 29, 2020, the dispensation from Sunday Mass attendance is granted only for the following: those who belong to vulnerable populations due to age or health; caregivers and those who live with those in vulnerable populations; those who are sick or have symptoms; and those who suffer from extreme uneasiness or anxiety from being in any public places in this time of pandemic.