

## Returning to our Normal Mass Directives

On the weekend of June 5 and 6, Saint John the Baptist and Saint Thomas the Apostle Parishes will be returning to most of our normal ways of participating at Mass. We will be following the directives of our state and the recommendations of our Archdiocese. Please take a few minutes to become familiar with our directives. These may differ from what other parishes are doing.

**This point is very important:** during this ongoing pandemic every person must do what he or she feels is safest for them and their family in matters such as going to church and wearing facemasks and keeping social distancing. As of May 29, our state permits people who have been fully vaccinated to move about in public without facemasks and without maintaining social distance. Those who have not been vaccinated are advised to wear facemasks.

### **Arriving at Mass:**

When you come to Mass in the future you may enter our churches at any entry. You may enter with others at your own discretion. You will not need to register nor will anyone be at the doors to check you in or take your temperature. There will be no collection boxes at the entry since we are resuming collection baskets during Mass for all collections. You may take a parish bulletin; the bulletin has all readings of our Sunday Mass.

### **When Mass begins:**

The priest and other ministers will process from the front entry and you are encouraged to sing. When possible we will provide song sheets to follow along. You will make all the usual responses and gestures such as sitting, standing and kneeling at the usual times.

### **Taking up offertory collections:**

We will take up the weekly collection after the creed and the announcements. Ushers will come with the baskets. We thank you for your support especially during these times. We strongly encourage you to use online giving which is very easy and dependable. This was very helpful to us during this past year. Follow instructions on our website. Second collections will be taken up on schedule or as an emergency arises.

### **Going up to Communion:**

We will resume the practice of persons processing up to the altar to receive Holy Communion. You will come up the center aisle and leave by the side aisle. Please show respect to the Lord in the Eucharist in the following ways. When you approach the priest or minister, BOW briefly. As the minister presents the host, respond "AMEN."

Keep in mind how to receive Holy Communion reverently.

You may do so in either one of two ways that are permitted by the Church (**see next page**).

For safety reasons, priests and ministers may wear a facemask while distributing Communion. You may choose to come to Communion with or without a facemask



## **COMMUNION IN THE HAND**

If you wish to receive Communion in your hand, extend your hand out **VERY FLAT** in front of the minister so they can place it without dropping it. Consume it carefully.

If you are wearing a mask you may then step aside, remove it, and consume the host.

Return to your place by the side aisle.



## **COMMUNION ON THE TONGUE**

If you wish to receive Communion on your tongue, open your mouth wide and **EXTEND YOUR TONGUE** out to the minister so they are able to place the host on your tongue without getting saliva on their fingers. Consume it carefully.

Return to your place by the side aisle.

## **Leaving after Mass:**

We can leave church after Mass using any of the doors of the church. Please be respectful of others who may wish to maintain social distancing. Many of us look forward to meeting others after Mass and enjoying conversation which you may do at your discretion.

**Be considerate of others.** While you are in church before or after Mass we remind you to maintain quiet as some will stay after Mass or others may be arriving who wish to pray.

**Thank you** for maintaining respect for the Lord and for one another at all times!