

CURRENT HEALTH PROTOCOLS:
(Re-stated from May 29/30 parish email.)

As widely known, health officials of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have updated health protocols within the State. The federal CDC prior made similar changes. The Archdiocese of Boston has adjusted its measures, as it has closely followed the civil health regulations since March 2020. Our Lady's Parish has followed these protocols in what methods work most effectively here.

Effective Saturday May 29, 2021 within the Commonwealth: (including our church)

- Health requirements call for **masks** to be worn by people who are **non-vaccinated**.
- **Wearing of masks outdoors and inside** public places are **not required for fully vaccinated** people.
- The **option of wearing a mask** for vaccinated individuals is one's **personal discretion**.
- **All have the responsibility** to best ensure the **health of themselves and others. Anyone who is sick or has symptoms of illness, should avoid public worship.** The usual Sunday requirement for Catholics in good health to attend in-person Mass temporarily remains an option by the Cardinal. However, the spiritual necessity to join at Mass – whether in-person or virtual certainly remains essential for those in good health.
- **Social Distancing is no longer required in the Commonwealth.** However, prudence is the responsibility of all.
- **Prudence** is requested as **all church pews will be open to worshippers.**
- **Volunteers will temporarily remain to assist** in the general seating of people. (*A reminder: People choosing to sit at church pew ends (excluding the few with serious handicaps) are to leave open the possibility for others to enter for mid-pew seating to better ensure reasonable non-required distancing of non-household – and better use of church seating. These protocols were followed during the more sensitive times during the pandemic crisis.*)

The Archdiocese has given wide discretion to Pastors for Church worship. Following consultation with Mass volunteers, the Pastoral Council, and other individuals – I believe it is best to slowly implement certain changes in our worship.

- Weather permitting – **the outdoor Mass will continue through the upcoming months** of better weather to help provide additional option of worship.
- **One Livestream Mass per weekend** – in the meantime – based on volunteers (usually at the Outdoor Mass time)
- The front outdoor Sound System speaker (facing Our Lady’s garden) is expected to operate at all Indoor Weekend Masses, while distribution of Holy Communion will remain within the Church, except at the outdoor Mass.
- **Singing of Sacred Music** will remain **limited**.
- The **Collection receptacles in the aisles and driveway will temporarily remain**, as the prior pre-pandemic use of a collection basket going pew to pew, while not resume at this time.
- The **Sign of Peace remains suspended** for the health sensibility and comfort of people
- The **reception of Holy Communion** will temporarily **remain** at the **conclusion of all Masses**. This may occasionally alter based on the pastoral situation.
- Reception of **Holy Communion will remain on the hand**, in addition to **Spiritual Communion**.
- **Flexibility remains important during these times. Please check the Friday weekly parish email** to registered parishioners, the parish web or office phone for weekend updates. During unusual circumstances – further adjustments may be made.

The longtime parish goal is to serve the people with both public and virtual services and by following reasonable and the best-practiced methods to protect worshippers, by following the government recommended measures. Thankfully, we are progressing in a more positive direction since March 2020. Let us continue to pray to God for the end of this pandemic as we work together toward that goal.