

HOLY CROSS PARISH

154 East Mt. Airy Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119
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May 31, 2020

I can't wait to see your face again – in a mask – when we re-open church next weekend!

You heard that right: we've been working hard these past few weeks because we're looking forward with great joy to welcoming everyone back to church on the first weekend in June. As this part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enters the "Yellow Phase", churches all over town are excited about the opportunity to gather in prayer again after our long exile.


Of course, this happens according to our readiness to embrace some important precautions, the details of which are on the reverse side of this page. For our own purposes at Holy Cross, we will celebrate Mass at 5PM on Saturday evening, at 11AM on Sunday morning (not at 9AM for the time being), and at 6PM on Sunday evening. We'll return to our normal schedule after the restrictions are lifted.

We're asking everyone to enter church through the front doors when you arrive, and to exit by way of the side doors. Seating arrangements have been modified temporarily – you'll see when you get here, or you can check the pictures on the web site – so that our capacity in the building is reduced to 90 people at a time. I don't foresee that as a problem for us.

Three important bits, and you know them already: disinfecting, social distancing, and face covering. We'll need to insist on this for the sake of everyone's safety and good health. Three little bits: wash your hands (we're taking care of washing church), wear your mask (and we'll have a little supply of disposables here in case you forget), and spread out. From the beginning, this is how we'll all stay safe.

If it starts to sound to you like we all need to be "our brother's keeper", you're right! We actually can take care for each other's safety and good health and pray with one another at the same time. I hope you'll join us next weekend.

Sincerely,



(Rev.) William E. Grogan
Pastor, Holy Cross Parish

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,
because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the World!*

Archbishop Pérez gives permission for the resumption of public Mass beginning Saturday, June 6, 2020, according to these protocols:

The faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice. If you are sick or feel vulnerable due to health conditions, or otherwise are at higher risk of illness, please do not to come to church.

Your Hands

- All high-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected after each celebration.
- Holy water fonts will remain empty.
- Collection baskets will be placed in monitored and convenient places for people to make their offerings before or after Mass.
- Hymnals and missalettes will not be used. Greeters and ushers will not hand out worship aids or bulletins, to avoid hand-to-hand contact. Bulletins are available for you to pick up for yourself.

Your Personal Space

- The faithful are to be seated in every other pew. Families may sit together. Pews are marked to indicate this.
- The choir will not be singing together until the Open Phase.
- The procession with the Gifts during the Offertory is omitted.
- The Sign of Peace and the distribution of the Precious Blood remain suspended.
- Holding hands during the Lord's Prayer is suspended.
- Out of necessity to avoid a real risk of infection with COVID-19 for the Communion minister and the communicants, Holy Communion is to be distributed in the hand at this time. Holy Communion is not to be distributed with gloves. The Communion procession should be single file. The faithful are to maintain social distancing in the Communion procession and when returning to their places.

Your Face

- Everyone (except those 2 years of age and younger) who attends Mass is to wear a face covering or mask throughout the celebration of Mass, except for the reception of Holy Communion. The face covering or mask should be removed for the reception of Holy Communion.
- The faithful should wear their face covering or mask before entering the church.
- The faithful may remove their face covering or mask only after they have left the church.