

New Covid Guidelines (updated 6/14/21)

With the developing changes in the Covid situation, and after discussion with the Pastoral Council and the adult forum, here are revised parish Covid guidelines.

1. Remember that those who are sick or contagious (not just Covid) should not come to Mass. No special dispensation from the Sunday obligation is needed in this situation. The same is true for those who stay home to care for the sick.
2. The Commonwealth has ended restrictions on the number of people who can be in the church, so the ropes on the pews will be removed. "Distancing" is probably still a good idea - and seems to come naturally to (former) Episcopalians (except perhaps for those who compete for the pews in the back).
3. Likewise it is prudent to continue greater spacing at the Communion rail, and to avoid gathering for conversation in church at the end of Mass - better to do that outside for the sake of reverence as well as Covid.
4. For the present, Communion will continue to be offered in one Kind. This is subject to review in another month or so.
5. The current practice of the celebrant alone handling the ciborium and hosts will continue; thus no gifts procession. Current practice of not passing the Peace physically, and of Offering collection in the baskets at the doors also continues.
6. The Sunday live-stream of Mass will be discontinued at the end of June. Links for other available live-streams will be included in the parish web site.
7. Evening Prayer and the Wednesday Bible study will continue on Zoom, as this allows people to participate who would not otherwise be able to. Adult forums will return to the Sunday coffee hour time (in person), unless there is an outside speaker who is more readily available on Zoom.

As always, common sense and charity towards others (who may have different perception of risks as well as different actual risks) should form our decisions.