

Our Lady of Lourdes - St. Joseph's Parish COVID 19 Communication Page

September 28, 2020

Following the recommendations of the Diocese of Manchester, the information below is provided to keep parishioners aware of the precautions mandated by the state of NH as well as those required by the Diocese of Manchester and requested by Father John.

Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Joseph's Church Buildings - All buildings are cleaned regularly, and high touch areas are disinfected on a weekly basis. Hand sanitizer and face masks are available if needed.

Guidelines for Usage of Masks - The wearing of masks in all public gatherings remains the best practice in the eyes of state and federal public health authorities. Thus, as an act of charity, **masks are required in all liturgical gatherings in the Diocese of Manchester, except for** children younger than 2 years old; anyone who has trouble breathing; and anyone incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Priests are directed by the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship never to wear a face covering during the celebration of the Mass. It is to be put on only for distribution of Holy Communion and then removed immediately. Guidelines to Prepare for Public Mass, updated September 2, 2020, Diocese of Manchester

A Eucharistic Minister will be available at OLOL immediately following the Saturday 4PM Mass and at STJ after the Sunday 10AM Mass to distribute the Eucharist for those who do not wish to attend Mass due to social distancing. Recorded Masses are available to view on the parish website.

Parish Center - Hand sanitizer and face masks are available in the entryway of the center.

Parish Guidelines for Religious Education (Sundays 8:45-9:45)- All parents, teachers and children are required to wear a mask during faith formation classes in the parish center and follow all guidelines put forth for social distancing and hand sanitizing.

Little Blessings Preschool (Mon-Fri-7:30-4:30)– the DHHS does not require young children in a day care setting to wear face masks. At this time, the teaching staff has chosen not to wear masks and continues to reassess the need on a weekly basis. Children's temperatures are taken every morning as they enter the building. High touch areas and bathrooms are disinfected at the end of the day.

Northwood Food Pantry & Parish Clothes Closet - Volunteers and those that seek assistance continue to wear masks and follow guidelines for distancing and sanitizing.

Young Life Youth Ministry (Wed and Fri evenings) Young Life continues to have most meetings outside or off site, wear masks and follow safety protocols when using the building.

Boy and Girl Scouts (Wed and Thurs evenings) - are not using the parish center at this time.

Rectory – When visiting the rectory, please call ahead for an appointment if possible and wear a face mask.

Keeping our Parish Priest Healthy this Fall/Winter!

If you need to speak with Father John in person, please wear a face mask and use social distancing.

Avoid social gatherings after Mass. If your question or comment for Father is not urgent, please consider communicating with him by contacting the rectory during office hours.

Stay at home if you are feeling unwell. Use hand sanitizer before Communion.

Screening Guidelines

The following are the screening questions as laid out in the most recent version of the Universal Guidelines:

- Do you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher?

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Fever, or feeling feverish;
 - Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath;
 - General body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue;
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, and
 - Changes in a person's sense of taste or smell.
- Have you had close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the prior 14 days? (Note: healthcare workers caring for COVID-19 patients while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment should answer "no" because they are not considered to have a COVID- 19 exposure)
 - Have you traveled in the prior 14 days outside of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, or Rhode Island for non-essential purposes? **If anyone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days (from the test date or from the date symptoms first appeared), then they should not enter the church.**

Links

NH Safer at Home, Places of Worship

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/2020-05/guidance-worship.pdf>

Guidelines to Prepare for a Public Mass

<https://www.catholicnh.org/assets/Documents/Community/Health-Care/GuidelinesToPrepareForMass-Updated090920.pdf>