



Dear Parishioners,

I would like to update you on the current situation regarding Covid-19 protocols in place for our parish. This week, we received word that at the advice of the governor, Bishop Brennan has asked that parishes who are in counties that have been named as “high risk” are to establish a “mask must be worn” protocol for those attending Mass. Because part of our parish boundaries lie in Franklin county, our parish is included in our bishop’s directive to increase the protocol. As a result, the following is the revised list of required and strongly recommended practices:

### **Required Practices**

— IF YOU ARE SICK, OR HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO IS SICK, PLEASE REMAIN AT HOME.

—REGULAR SANITIZING OF COMMONLY TOUCHED SURFACES: This will be handled by parish staff.

— SOCIAL DISTANCING: We ask that a six-foot distance remain between anyone not from your household. The pews have been "color-coded" in order to keep everyone distanced. This will also allow us to know which pews need to be sanitized.

—FACIAL COVERING: Masks should be worn at all times when entering/leaving the building and while attending Mass, with the exception of when receiving Holy Communion. There are exceptions, such as those presiding at Mass, small children, and those for whom wearing a mask might present medical or other issues. If someone is not wearing a mask, they may fit into one of the above exceptions. So they will not be sent away or denied the Sacraments. Please do not confront them, simply respect their space and yours by keeping safe distances from them. If you cannot wear a mask, please respect the space of those who are.

—WHERE POSSIBLE ALL DOORS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC USE WILL REMAIN OPEN TO AVOID TOUCHING.

- CLASSROOMS, OFFICES, THE SOCIAL HALL, AND KITCHEN DOORS WILL REMAIN CLOSED TO REDUCE OUR NEED TO SANITIZE THESE SPACES.

—CRY ROOMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE: Because of the enclosed environment, we cannot open that space to the public. We welcome families with young children and suggest the Narthex or hallway as places to take your little ones.

## **Strongly Recommended Practices**

—THOSE WHO ARE OVER 70 OR HAVE HEALTH ISSUES SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME.

—HAND HYGIENE: We will make sanitizer available in various places. In order to make supplies last, we ask, if possible, for parishioners to bring their own sanitizer for use before, during, and after Mass.

—COMMUNION IN THE HAND: Bishop Brennan has encouraged the faithful to consider receiving communion in the hand for now.

—REST ROOMS: While our rest rooms will be open (except for those in the cry rooms) we encourage their use only in absolute necessity. If restrooms must be used, please limit capacity to two people/families at a time.

Thank you for your respect of these requests. Remember these precautions are temporary and we will return to a time of less restrictions when it is appropriate.

Thank you for all you have already done to help us navigate these times. I will continue to update you as we receive direction from our bishop. Please keep him in your prayers as I am sure all of his decisions do not come easily for him.

God Bless,  
Fr. Black