

Celebration of the Eucharist

More people have been attending Mass in person and Father Cavanaugh and Father Janusz are grateful for that. Overall it has been a positive transition and things have gone well.

Phase 3 of Connecticut's reopening went into effect on October 8. Under Phase 3 guidelines, seating in church is now limited to 200 people adequately spaced. Spacing of pews has been redone to accommodate this revision so that additional people can be seated during Mass. Everyone is still required to wear a face mask, maintain appropriate (6 foot) distancing, and follow arrows where indicated.

Please be reminded of the following changes which remain in place:

- Everyone is required to wear a face mask.
- Seating in the church is limited to 200 people adequately spaced. The lower church (at Saint James) can accommodate overflow seating for approximately 60 people if necessary. Families may sit together but unrelated people should sit six feet apart.
- Missalettes, bibles, and bulletins have been removed from the pews.
- Music will be provided by our musicians; however, the congregation will not be singing.
- The entrance, offertory and recessional processions have been omitted as well as exchanging a sign of peace.
- The collection basket will not be passed. You are welcome to place your donation in the collection box as you enter or leave church. Alternatively, you are encouraged to use online giving or to mail a check to the rectory.
- When receiving Holy Communion, approach the altar while maintaining a distance from one another. Do not come up side by side. Keep your mask on if you are receiving in the hand. Receive the Eucharist, step to the side, drop your mask and receive Our Lord. If you wish to receive on the tongue, you are asked to come at the end of the communion line.
- Professional contractors have been hired to clean before each Mass. Parishioners are asked to depart shortly after Mass and arrive no more than twenty minutes before Mass to allow time for cleaning.

While the public celebration of Sunday Masses has resumed, dispensation from the Sunday obligation granted by the Archbishop will extend through **Saturday, November 28, 2020**. Sunday Mass will continue to be broadcast on Youtube. To access the St. James YouTube channel, go to the Saint James Parish website, www.stjamesmanchester.org, and click on the link found on the home page.