

ST. MARY'S PARISH HOLLISTON PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS

FOR THOSE FULLY VACCINATED.

As of May 29, 2021, fully vaccinated people (two weeks past their second shot), are no longer required to wear masks or socially distance in our parish. This applies to worship and other parish activities.

** Please note that masks will be required to sit in the church transepts, see below.*

This change is by the honor system. Non-



masked people will not have to show proof of vaccination. Every parishioner and every family will make a sound, reasonable decision about when they are ready to take off their masks and be near other people. Some people who are comfortable dropping social distancing may not yet be comfortable taking off their masks. They are free to continue to wear masks as long as they like.

FOR THOSE UNVACCINATED. Because unvaccinated people are more likely to contract the Covid Virus and can transmit it to others even if they themselves are asymptomatic, we must ask the unvaccinated to continue wearing masks. This is out of concern for the safety of others, as well as their own. Please do your part to keep all our people safe.

NAVE CHURCH SEATING: The entire nave of the church (main body), will no longer be taped off for social distancing. Both masked and non-masked people may sit there.

TRANSEPT CHURCH SEATING: Both church transepts (side wings), will remain taped off every other pew for social distancing, and masks are required to sit in the transepts. This is a provision for people who are not yet ready to sit near other people, or to be near people who are not wearing masks.

HAND SANITIZING: All are asked to please sanitize their hands immediately upon entering the church. The church will continue to be sanitized on a daily basis.

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION RESTORED: The dispensation from the obligation for coming to Sunday Mass has been lifted effective June 19, 2021. However, if a parishioner is feeling ill they should remain at home. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

MASS SIGN-UPS: Advance Sign-ups are no longer required to attend Mass, nor will records be kept of those attending.

COVID EXPOSURE: If we learn that someone with Covid attended a Mass at St. Mary's, a general notification will be made to the Parish. *Please be sure that St. Mary's has your current email address!*

SINGING AT MASS: Fully restored, sing away! New songbooks with the Mass Readings have been ordered and will be placed in the pews as soon as they arrive.

THE SIGN OF PEACE: For the present, please continue to offer this to others with a bow or wave rather than shaking hands.

DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION: Both clergy and Eucharistic Ministers will continue to wear masks to give out Holy Communion. They will disinfect their hands before distributing Holy Communion.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: Communion continues to be received on the hand only. The Precious Blood is not yet available for Communion.

MASS COLLECTIONS. Technically, collections may be taken up by basket again. However, St. Mary's is unable to do so at this time. We did not have enough ushers before the pandemic, and a number of our faithful older ushers are now too infirm to resume this ministry. Once Mass attendance approaches normal levels, we will need to do a major recruitment and training program for ushers. Collections will resume at Mass when we have ushers ready for all Masses. In the meantime, please mail in or drop off your weekly offertory and special collection envelopes through the rectory mail slot. Wooden collection boxes have also been placed in front of the sanctuary at Weekend Masses in church. **Or better yet ...**

... All parishioners are urged to please make the switch to Automatic Giving or WeShare. These forms of giving offer the most reliable support for your parish, safe from the vagaries of weather, travel, and even pandemic. Learn how to make the switch by clicking [HERE](#).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Since masking and social distancing are still required in public schools in Massachusetts even after May 29, we are not yet certain about what faith formation programs for children will need to look like in the fall. The programs will certainly be allowed and in person, but we do not know yet about masking and distancing requirements. We will keep you advised.

**BLESSED MOTHER MARY,
PRAY FOR US!**

