



St. John Fisher Rectory

300 BALMORAL DRIVE
BRAMALEA, ONTARIO
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What to Expect When You Return to Church

June 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

The church has re-opened and daily Masses have resumed (Monday-Friday at 9 am). Our weekend mass schedule will also resume this weekend: Saturday 5:30 pm, Sunday 9 am, 10:30 am, 12 pm and 5:30 pm.

As you can expect, things will look a little different. Many of these changes may be awkward/uncomfortable and contrary to our culture of hospitality and community. In working to foster a safe environment for all, we thank you in advance for your patience and co-operation.

Please remember that Cardinal Collins has given us *dispensation from attending our Sunday mass* during this pandemic. You do not have to return to church yet if you do not feel ready to come back because of fear, older age or pre-existing health conditions.

We need volunteers to help us maintain these new procedures. We need help to clean, sanitize, and usher the parishioners. If you can help, please contact the church office at (905) 793-6610 or email at stjohnfisherparish@gmail.com.

When you come to mass, here's what you can expect.

MASKS:

The Archdiocese, after consulting with the Chief Medical Officer for the Province of Ontario, is recommending that all those (over the age of 3) who come to church wear a mask/face covering to mitigate the potential spread of the virus. *At St John Fisher, we will require that all parishioners wear a mask.* Please come prepared. We hope to have disposable masks available for sale soon. I recognize this is uncomfortable, but it is out of care and love for our neighbour.

BEFORE COMING TO CHURCH:

- Please check the temperature of all family members before coming to church. If any family members have a fever, please remain home for the health and safety of all. Consult your family doctor.
- Please remain home if you exhibit any of the following symptoms: cough, fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, headache, runny nose, sore throat, chills with shakes.

ARRIVING AT CHURCH:

- Maintain physical distancing at all times – 2 metres (6 feet) from others – in the parking lot, church entrance and in the church itself.
- Upon arrival, put on a mask/face covering before entering the church (for all those over the age of 3).
- Entering the church will be through the front door only. Please follow the direction of our Ushers.
- Sanitize hands upon entry and regularly whenever possible.
- The Holy Water fonts at the entrance are empty and will not be used during this time.

SEATING:

- Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Once capacity is reached, no other person will be allowed in the church, following the guidelines from the Ontario Government.
- Pews will be marked to note physical distancing requirements. Families and households living at the same residence may sit together; the same 2 metre (6ft.) distance should be maintained concerning others. Please follow the direction of our Ushers for seating.
- *Families only* will be allowed seating in the Chapel at this time by invitation of the Ushers.
- Pews have been emptied of hymnals and prayer cards.
- Parish bulletins will not be published at this time.

DURING MASS:

- Please listen carefully to announcements before the start of Mass. Follow the directions given.
- Parishioners should not sing during mass. The choir members will be the only singers for now and until further notice. They will sit upstairs spread out in the loft. Health officials have indicated that more droplets are spread out during singing than in speaking. Parishioners may not sit upstairs in the choir loft.
- There will be no offertory procession or collection. Please leave donations in the designated container on your way out of the church at the end of mass.
- Please do not hold hands during the Our Father or shake hands before, after or during any portion of the celebration of the Eucharist. At the Sign of Peace, a nod or bow to others is appropriate.

RECEIVING COMMUNION:

- Please follow the direction of the Ushers
- Communion will be distributed starting from the back row of the church and moving towards the front
- Wait on the designated markings. When it is your turn, remove your mask by the ear loop, respond Amen and then consume the Blessed Host. Put your mask back on after consumption.
- During this time of pandemic and under the guidance of local medical health officials, the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the **hand only** by placing one on top of the other, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to safely place the Body of Christ in one's hand without contact.
- Ensure physical distancing at all times.

EXITING THE CHURCH:

- Follow directions provided for dismissal and departure.
- Exit through the side doors only – i.e. the doors near the washrooms and the doors near the chapel.
- Please leave donations in the designated container on your way out of the church at the end of mass. Thank you for your continued generosity.
- Please depart the church promptly so that sanitizing can begin to ready the church for your fellow parishioners attending the next mass.
- We kindly ask that you do not congregate or socialize in the foyer or parking lot at this time.
- Please maintain physical distancing.

CONFESSION:

- Confession will be available on Saturdays from 4:30-5 pm.
- Please line up and maintain physical distancing, if necessary.
- Inside the confessional, you **must** wear a mask.
- Please stand inside the confessional so that you will not be touching any surfaces.

WASHROOMS:

- Washrooms will be closed. In an emergency, the Ushers may allow it. If you have a condition that requires frequent visits to the washroom, please consider staying at home until we are able to safely re-open the washrooms.

GENERAL:

- If you suddenly feel ill, start coughing or sneezing, please leave the church for the health and safety of others gathered.
- If possible, bring your own pocket sanitizer as well.
- If, within 14 days of attending Mass, you learn that you or someone in your family who attended Mass with you has tested positive for COVID-19, you are asked to: ❶ contact the Ontario Public Health Authority; and ❷ contact the parish office. Your identity will not be revealed to anyone other than the Public Health Authority. This measure is only to ensure that any spread is contained.

Your St John Fisher Parish is doing its best to re-open safely. It will work if we all take responsibility for ourselves, follow the protocols put in place even though they feel unnatural and uncomfortable, and show your care and love for your neighbours.

We need volunteers to help us maintain these new procedures. We need help to clean, sanitize, and usher the parishioners. If you can help, please contact the church office at (905) 793-6610 or email at stjohnfisherparish@gmail.com.

Thank you for your patience as we work together to safely re-open your St John Fisher Parish.

Fr. Regulo Imperial, Pastor