

Guidelines for Mass at OMC – beginning June 13, 2021

We often hear it said that we cannot wait until we get back to the way things were, whatever that may mean in a post-Covid world. One thing that we can be assured of is that our celebration of the Eucharist never changes and our return to the celebration of the Mass in its fullest form will provide us with the certainty of this everlasting truth. The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” As we embrace the sufferings of the past 18 months, mourn those who have died, and reclaim that which has been taken from us, we pray in thanksgiving to God in our celebration of the Eucharist. For throughout the pandemic, God has remained faithful to us and has given us the grace we need, not only to endure but to grow through this crisis. God always remains faithful! Let us gather in thanksgiving at Mass for God’s faithfulness to us.

With the pending lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia, it will soon be possible to celebrate the Eucharist and all the Sacraments with very few exceptions in the manner prior to the pandemic. Although the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as of Monday, May 31, 2021, lifts all building sanitation, distancing, and capacity restrictions, the City of Philadelphia will continue to observe the current COVID-19 restrictions until Friday, June 11, 2021.

GENERAL POINTS

- The faithful continue to be dispensed by the Archbishop from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice. Everyone is encouraged to return to in-person Sunday Mass and the celebration of all the Sacraments, especially for those who are in good health.
- According to the recent CDC guidance, people who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus no longer need to wear masks or follow social distancing restrictions in most indoor and outdoor settings, except as required by state and local laws or other regulations. We ask everyone to be respectful of a person’s choice to wear or not to wear a face covering.
- All liturgical ministries will resume. Ministers are asked to sign up manually, through September, using Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP). The auto scheduler will begin in October.
- All pews will be available, and we will return to 100% capacity of the Church. All directional restrictions will be lifted.
- Sanitizing measures between Masses will be discontinued; however, our regular weekly cleaning will continue.
- We will discontinue the livestreaming of the Saturday, 4:30 PM Vigil Mass and the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass; however, the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass will be livestreamed beginning June 13. There will be no distribution of the Eucharist after the livestream Mass. The recorded Sunday Mass will be available throughout the week.

“The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.

St. Francis de Sales