

Guidelines for Mass at OMC – 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 lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia, we are returning to celebration of the Eucharist and all the Sacraments with very few exceptions in the manner prior to the pandemic.

GENERAL POINTS

- The faithful continue to be dispensed by the Archbishop from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days until further notice. Everyone is encouraged to return to in-person Sunday Mass and the celebration of all the Sacraments, especially 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 be resume. Ministers are asked to sign up throughout September, using the Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP). The new auto schedule will begin in October.
- The distribution of the Precious Blood will continue to be suspended.
- The in-pew collection and the offertory procession will resume in July.
- All pews are available, and we can return to 100% capacity of the Church. All entrance, exit, and directional restrictions are lifted.
- Hymnals, missalettes, and other in-pew resources are available for use.
- Sanitizing measures between Masses are discontinued.
- The live stream of the Saturday 4:30 PM Vigil Mass and the Sunday 9:00 AM Mass is discontinued.
- The Sunday 11:00 AM Mass will be livestreamed and available throughout the week on OMC YouTube channel .
- There will be no distribution of the Eucharist after the livestreamed Mass.

“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