



# Guidelines for Safely Returning to Mass

## Safety Measures:

- **If you are feeling ill, stay safe at home.**
- We highly encourage those who are vulnerable (such as the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions) to continue to participate in Mass via parish livestreaming or CTV: Catholic Television.
- Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter will continue to be broadcast daily on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. It is also available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- People should wash their hands thoroughly before coming to church.

## Face Masks:

- Face masks must be worn by all lay faithful who attend Mass. The only time a face mask may be removed is for the reception of Holy Communion.
- Clergy are not to wear a face mask during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy but must wear a face mask for the distribution of Holy Communion which takes place after Mass.

## Social Distancing:

- Mass attendance will be limited to no more than 25-percent of a church's seating capacity.
- While within the church, all people need to maintain a safe social distance of six feet from others in all directions. The only exception is for immediate family members who may sit together.
- Several pews may separate individuals/families to ensure the six foot distancing while within the church.
- Parishioners will need to enter through only one designated door, follow social distancing guidelines during the line for communion, and exit the church through a separate door.

## Holy Communion:

- The distribution of Holy Communion will take place after the conclusion of Mass. After receiving communion, the faithful are to depart and not return to their pews.
- Distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time.
- Parishioners are strongly advised to receive the Body of Christ in the hand.
- Priests and deacons (or any other minister) will wear a mask for the distribution of Holy Communion and are to use hand sanitizer before, immediately after, and if necessary, during the distribution of communion if contact is made with any person's hand or tongue.

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended at this time**