

April 6, 2021
Tuesday of the First Week of Easter

Dear Parish Family,

Over the past several weeks, we have safely and efficiently welcomed more of you to Sunday Mass. We have accomplished this while adhering to state and diocesan requirements, particularly when it comes to safe-distancing. The parish staff and volunteers have spent many hours planning and organizing this effort, and your patience and kind cooperation have been exemplary and even inspiring!

Because we have managed to expand our numbers successfully, and with guidance from the CDC, state and local government, and the Bishop's office, we will **eliminate the need to pre-register for Mass**, effective immediately. *Please note that this is an experiment; if the need arises, we may return to a modified sign-up system.*

Please read carefully and follow the guidelines that must be followed in order to ensure a safe and fitting environment for worship.

1. **Kindly enter the church through the Cherry Street doors.** While there will be no "sign-up" table, our greeters will be there to welcome you, encourage you to use hand sanitizer, direct you to safe seating, and answer any questions.
2. **Attendance is on a first-come-first-served basis.** If the number in church approaches a limit that compromises safe-distancing, we will have to ask some to attend Mass at a later time. However, given the pattern of attendance in recent weeks, we believe that everyone can be accommodated at their "usual" Mass time. Nonetheless, we reserve the right to ask some to attend later in order to avoid unsafe crowding. Arriving at least ten minutes prior to the beginning of Mass should help. *(A reminder that the church is sanitized after every Mass, so please don't arrive more than fifteen minutes ahead of the Mass time to allow the chemical to settle.)*
3. **Face-coverings must be worn at all times, regardless of vaccination status.** If you have a medical exemption, please send documentation directly to Father Rob (frrob@starcc.com). The wearing of face coverings is an act of charity, and we are grateful for your concern for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. **Social distancing must be maintained** as indicated by seat markings and pew ropes. Families and those who live in the same household may sit close together. Please do not sit in pews that are roped off or anywhere else in the church, including the "quiet" rooms. Please remember to maintain a proper distance while on the communion line as well.
5. **Please do not attend Mass if you are sick** or required to be quarantined.

A few other items:

1. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is not currently in place, but is likely to be restored later in the spring.

2. Missalettes and hymnals are currently not available in the church. The program of music and scripture readings for the weekend is posted on the parish website by Saturday afternoon. You may print it out and bring it with you or use your cellular device to refer to it during Mass. (Please do not be tempted to use your phone for other purposes, and kindly remember to turn off all audible notifications.)
3. The 7:00 AM Daily Mass and the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass will continue to be live-streamed. The Mass can be viewed live or afterwards on the homepage of the parish website (www.starcc.com) or on our parish Facebook page.

An official statement regarding your safety and responsibilities:

St. Aloysius Parish, New Canaan, is pleased to be able to offer public worship. The parish is taking precautions per the recommendations of the CDC, Governor Lamont's office, and the Office of the Bishop of Bridgeport regarding public gatherings, as well as our own precautions that we believe are prudent under the circumstances. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to Mass, but please understand there are risks involved in attending public worship in a pandemic, despite all of the precautions taken by the parish and the diocese.

We ask your cooperation with all of the directives that have been put in place for your safety and the safety of our clergy and staff. When attending any parish activity, you recognize the obligation to (i) wear a mask or face covering when required; (ii) adhere to all directives regarding social distance spacing when participating in the activity and (iii) *not* attend if you are sick, experiencing any symptoms consistent with the coronavirus, or are otherwise required to be quarantined.

Through the intercession of Saint Aloysius and Saint Joseph, may we all remain safe, and may those who are sick be healed.

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Father Rob