

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Re-Opening Procedures at St. Nicholas Church, Evanston

### Masses in the Church and Chapel

#### What if I am not feeling well, but feel that I should attend Mass?

Anyone who doesn't feel well should not attend services at St. Nicholas. – This helps to ensure that all our worshippers are as safe as possible.

#### Is it necessary to wear a mask?

Everyone entering the Church or Chapel MUST wear a mask and it must cover the nose and the mouth throughout the service.

#### Is it necessary to Pre-register for Mass?

- Everyone attending services in the Church or in the Chapel must **pre-register** – that can be done online at <[nickchurch.org](http://nickchurch.org)>. Click on the box on the homepage marked “Register for Mass” and follow the instructions.
- For those who need to register by phone just call St. Nicholas Rectory at 847.864.8115, Ext.33.
- Walk-ins are permitted, but may not be admitted if we are full.

The reason we must have good information on everyone is to allow for **Contact Tracing**. If someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 after they were at St. Nicholas – everyone they came in contact with that day will be contacted by the Dept. of Public Health.



#### How many people are currently allowed in the Church or the Chapel



The maximum number permitted in Church at this time is 110



The maximum number permitted in the Chapel is 42.



#### What happens when I get to the Chapel or the Church?

- A trained volunteer will check you in – they will check your name off the list and if you are a walk-in, you will be asked to write down your name and contact information.
- You will then be asked to sanitize your hands with the hand-sanitizer provided.

A greeter/usher, will either show you to a seat or will point out where the decals are placed which allow for 6 feet of distance between each person. The rows that are roped off are not to be used.





### **I come with my family – can we sit together?**

People who live together can sit together as a group.

### **How Does Holy Communion Work?**

- Communion will be distributed by section. The goal is to keep everyone safe by staying 6 feet apart at all times. There are strips on the floor that are spaced 6 feet apart. The ushers/greeters will assist with the flow of people to maintain the 6 feet distancing.

The Priest or Eucharistic Ministers wear a mask and a protective shield when distributing the Eucharist.



### **Which way do I enter and leave the Chapel?**

The way into the Chapel is the West Entrance or via the elevator and the North door is the Exit – onto Washington Street

### **Which way do I enter or leave the Church?**

- The West Entrance and the Ramp Entrances are the way into the Church – there are strips indicating the 6 feet distance for lining up to get into Church.
- The Exits are Ridge Avenue and the 2 side doors – by Our Lady of Guadalupe or Washington Street.

The ushers will assist with exiting to avoid close contact with others. People are encouraged to leave without gathering in groups to limit potential exposure to COVID-19.



### **Presider and Lectors**

The presider wears a mask except when declaring the Gospel, praying or leading the community in prayer. Lectors wear a face-mask except when they are at the lectern.

### **Music – Are We Allowed to Sing?**

- The Cantor and Accompanist are permitted to sing - they need not wear a mask when singing, but there should be 12 feet between the person singing and members of the congregation. The Cantor must wear a mask when not speaking or singing.

Members of the community are not permitted to sing at this time.

### **Who sanitizes the Church and Chapel?**

Trained volunteers sanitize at the end of each service with material approved by the Archdiocese and provided by St. Nicholas Parish.



## Parking Lot Masses

### How many Parking Lot Masses are offered?

- There are two on Sunday morning:
  - o 8:30 am. Spanish
  - o 10:00 am English



### Is it necessary to Register for a Parking Lot Mass?

While it is not necessary to register for Parking Lot Masses, social distancing and other safety precautions are in place. Also participants must remain in their cars.

### Do you still have to wear a mask to attend a Parking Lot Mass?

Yes.



### How is Communion handled at the Parking Lot Mass?

- First, ministers will come to your car on both sides with hand sanitizer. Then a Eucharistic Minister will follow and you should extend your hands out the window to receive Communion.

### How will I know where to park?

Ushers will direct you to designated parking spaces.

### Can I enter the Parking Lot from Ridge?

No, you can only enter the parking lot from the Washington and Madison Alleys.

### Do we exit the way we came in?

Ushers will guide you to the appropriate exit.

