

## GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO CHURCH—RESOURCE FOR THE FAITHFUL

### ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

As we prepare to re-open churches, please be aware of the following guidelines. We recognize that they may be awkward/uncomfortable and contrary to our culture of hospitality and community. In working to foster a safe environment for all, we thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

#### Before coming to church:

- Please check temperature of all family members before coming to church. If any family members have a fever, please remain home for the health and safety of all. Consult your family doctor.
- Please remain at home if you exhibit any of the following symptoms: cough, fatigue, loss of appetite, shortness of breath, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, headache, runny nose, sore throat, chills with shakes.

#### Arriving at church:

- Maintain physical distancing at all times – 2 metres (6 feet) from others – in the entry line, church entrance and in church itself.
- Upon arrival, put on mask/face covering before entering church (for all those over the age of 3).
- **Entrance will be via Pacific Avenue only.** Follow direction of volunteers, signage as appropriate.
- **Sanitize hands upon entry** and regularly wherever possible. Pews and aisles will be marked to note physical distancing requirements. Families and households living at the same residence may sit together; the same 2 metre (6 ft.) distance should be maintained concerning others. **Follow direction of ushers for seating.**
- Pews will be emptied of prayer books, hymnals, etc. Parish bulletins will not be published at this time.
- Holy Water fonts will be empty and not in use at this time.
- Maintain physical distancing at all times—2 metres (6 feet) from others—in the church entrance and in church itself.)

### Celebration of the Eucharist:

- **Please listen carefully to announcements before the start of Mass and before Eucharist. Follow direction of ushers. Remain seated until ushered.**
- Please do not enter the sacristy unless you have been asked to assist during Mass.
- Other than a cantor appropriately physically distanced, there will be **no singing at Mass until further notice.**
- There will be **no offertory procession or collection. Please leave donation in the designated basket upon departure as directed.**
- We ask that people do not hold hands or shake hands during any portion of the celebration of the Eucharist. **At the Sign of Peace, a nod or bow to others is appropriate.**
- Masks/face coverings should be removed to consume Holy Communion and put back on after consumption.
- **During this time of pandemic and under the guidance of local medical health officials, the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand by placing one on top of the other, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to safely place the Body of Christ in one's hand without contact.**
- Follow direction of ushers for communion flow, ensuring physical distancing at all times.
- Follow direction provided for dismissal and departure – **Exit via the Aziel door only.**

### Conclusion of Holy Mass:

Please depart the church so that cleaning may commence. While it is our nature to congregate/socialize in the foyer or sidewalk, we ask you NOT to do so at this time. Please maintain physical distancing.

- If you suddenly feel ill, start coughing or sneezing, please leave the church for the health and safety of others gathered.
- **Washroom will be locked and unavailable** except for urgent need. Please use **washrooms only if absolutely necessary**. One person or family at a time should be in the washroom. Ensure that all wash their hands with warm, soapy water after using washroom facilities. Please respect physical distancing outside the washroom.
- If, within 14 days of attending Mass, you learn that you or someone in your family who attended Mass with you has tested positive for COVID-19, you are asked to: a) contact the Ontario Public Health Authority; and, b) contact the parish office. Your identity will not be revealed to anyone other than the Public Health Authority, and only to ensure that any spread is contained. (see: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment>; you can also call Telehealth (1-866-797-0000), the local Public Health unit, or your family doctor).

If you would like to volunteer to help at the parish, please contact the parish office ([stceciliatoronto@gmail.com](mailto:stceciliatoronto@gmail.com) / 416 769 8163). The physical office remains closed at this time but work is being done remotely.