GUIDELINES/EXPECTATIONS FOR MASS ATTENDANCE

*This new beginning calls for a new way of thinking*, and *some sacrifice* for the sake of others. These measures are temporary, but they’re important.

First, the dispensation from attending Mass has been extended to September 6th for all of the faithful, so do not feel guilty if you stay away for health and safety reasons. Read that again, *do not feel guilty*.

Those 65 or older, and those with other health issues are encouraged to stay home.

We will continue to live stream on the internet.

Anyone who has symptoms of illness, or has been exposed to the virus in the last 14 days, must not come. This includes members of the same household.

Everyone is asked to take their temperature at home, and stay home if it’s 100 degrees or more.

Also, you can now fulfill your Sunday obligation by attending Mass any day of the week.

This helps to spread out the number of people attending Mass. *Please take advantage of this flexibility*.

During this first phase, we can only use 25% of our seating capacity. That means not everyone can attend Mass on the weekend. We don’t want to turn people away. Again, a new way of thinking.

We will be using the church for Mass during this initial phase, since its easier to clean than the gym.

We ask that you *bring our own hand sanitizer if possible*, and use it before and after communion.

Everyone is strongly encourage to wear a face mask or covering unless they’re under the age of two.

Please receive communion on the hand, which is less risky than on the tongue. This is a sacrifice for some, but so is wearing a mask or so many other things we are doing these days. If you receive on the tongue please be last in line to receive.

The priest will say “the Body of Christ” once to the congregation or section of pews and all will respond “Amen” together. Communion will be received in silence.

Collection baskets will be located conveniently rather than being passed around.

Parking will be very limited because of our construction project. They’ll be tearing up most of the parking lot in the coming days. That means we need to *leave home early and be prepared to walk. Another reason to pick another day rather than Sunday.*

Spacing of 6’ is to be maintained when entering and leaving, in the communion line and in the pews. This will require patience and cooperation.

The church needs to be cleaned after each Mass, so you will need to leave right after Mass.

Please contact the parish office if you can help with cleaning.

That’s all for now. Please approach this with a spirit of charity and patience, as Christians are called to do. Blessings and peace to all of you,