

Directives for Resumption of Public Masses at Our Lady of Hope Parish - as developed from the Diocesan Protocols/Measures

- **General Provisions:**
 - Masses will be limited in attendance to 25% of the church capacity.
 - Anyone who is older than 65 years of age (the recommended CDC age), with a compromised health condition or caring for the sick in any way, is at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and is advised to stay home.
 - Anyone with a cough of any sort, and anyone feeling sick in any way, is advised to stay home.
 - Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass will remain in effect through August 30, 2020.
 - The Sign of Peace will be omitted.
- **Face Coverings and Social Distancing and Hand Sanitizing:**
 - The Diocese has stated that **all the faithful over 2 years of age are required to wear face coverings** upon entering the church until they depart. Masks will remain on their face throughout the whole Mass except for when receiving communion.
 - **There must be strict social distancing.** The faithful should always maintain a 6-foot distance from each other. (Including entering and exiting the building, waiting in line for confession or Holy Communion and restroom usage.)
 - Members of a single household may sit together in the same row. (For example, if a family arrived in a single private vehicle, they could sit together.)
 - The faithful will **sanitize their hands** upon entering the church building. Sanitizer will be located on a table in the gathering space.
- **Distribution of Holy Communion:**
 - The faithful should remove any face coverings and gloves before coming forward for Holy Communion and remain 6 feet apart in the Communion line. (Holy Communion cannot be received in the hand if a member of the faithful is wearing gloves.)
- **Communion on the Tongue vs. in the Hand:**
 - According to Diocesan instruction and because of the seriousness of this virus, all the faithful should receive Communion in the hand. If communicants insist on receiving Communion on the tongue, they should remain in their pews and receive Communion last, after all others have received.
- **Contributions:**
 - A general collection will not be taken up during the Mass. There will be baskets at the rear of the church to deposit your envelope or donation as you enter.
- **Sanitation of the church:**
 - The church and restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized after each Mass.