



## Church of St. John the Evangelist

806 Union Street • Schenectady, NY 12308

518/372-3381

Dear Parishioners of St. John's Church,

The weekend of July 4-5 we are finally opening up our church for Masses – thanks be to God!

We ask for your patience as we do our best to provide a safe and healthy environment. We will consistently monitor our plan and make adjustments as necessary. While these new safety precautions are not what we are accustomed to, it is important to be aware that following the sensible steps allows us to once again gather in our church to worship. These guidelines have been thoughtfully designed to keep us safe and enable each of us to be respectful, considerate, and compassionate toward one another.

Due to many regulations from both the government and the Diocese resulting from the corona virus, we have changed the Weekend Mass Schedule. A major reason we needed to do that is connected to the necessity to sanitize the church before and after any liturgical celebration.

These changes came after much thought and in conversation with our celebrating Priests as well as parish staff members. We took great pains to put together a schedule that we felt would best accommodate the needs and wants of our parishioners.

It is important to note that Bishop Scharfenberger has stated that there continues to be ***no obligation to attend Weekend Mass***. Those with chronic health conditions should be especially mindful of this temporary dispensation.

The following is the new Mass schedule:

4 PM Saturday

8:45 AM Sunday

10:30 AM Sunday

1. We encourage you to arrive ***at least 30 minutes before Mass begins***. If you do not, you will undoubtedly add to the time that you will be waiting in line outside the church.
2. There will be only 2 entrances and exits to and from church, and both face the Eastern Avenue parking lot.

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3. The following are state requirements. They are ***not optional***. When you come in the door you must fill out a sign-in sheet with your name, address, phone number, and Zip Code. Then you must immediately sanitize your hands. You must maintain social distancing and be wearing a mask. Those who cannot wear a mask for a prolonged period of time due to some health issue or breathing concerns are asked to remain at home. You will then be escorted to your seat by an Usher or a Greeter.
4. In compliance with diocesan directives, there will be no bulletins, no hymnals, and no Holy Water. In addition, there will be no Sign of Peace and no congregational singing.
5. Mass will begin at the moment it is scheduled to do so and will be celebrated as usual. There will be no delay in starting, even if all coming in have not yet signed in.
6. After the Priest and Deacon receive Holy Communion, the Final Blessing will be imparted. Then the Collection will be taken up by the Ushers and/or Greeters.
7. When the Collection is over, the Dismissal will begin with the reception of Holy Communion. An Usher or Greeter will direct each pew individually to come forth. ***Please remain in your pew until you are directed by one of the Ushers or Greeters to receive Holy Communion and then exit Church.***
8. For those who may not wish to receive Holy Communion but God's blessing instead, as you come forward please cross your arms across your chest. Then with everyone else in line you will proceed to exit church.
9. As part of our safety plan, when Mass is over there will be no gathering or congregating anywhere in church or in the parking lot. ***This includes the lighting of votive candles.*** Should you wish to do that, you can come during private prayer time Monday through Friday.

In advance I thank each of you for your anticipated understanding and cooperation as together you and I begin a new chapter in our faith journey. May the good Lord continue to bless you and yours now and always.

**Fr. Carlino.**