

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

RETURNING TO CHURCH INFO SHEET

We are very excited to welcome you back to your Parish home beginning the weekend of June 20,2020. The regular mass schedule will be followed. A return to public celebration of the Mass must be safe, gradual and orderly. There will be challenges and frustrations, adjustments and reasonable sacrifices needed to be made along the way so as not to contribute to a rebound effect of the virus. The information below includes things we all will need to follow as we worship together again.

RISK ASSUMED BY PARISHIONERS:

While our parish staffs will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners and guests should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 anytime they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE ILL:

Do you have a fever or flu-like symptoms? Have you recently traveled out of the country? Have you been exposed to someone with COVID-19? Those who show signs of risk should not enter the church and should stay at home. Those who are elderly or vulnerable are encouraged to remain at home. For those parishioners unable to attend mass the Albany diocese will continue the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass.

PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND MASS:

Phase 2 of the NYS reopening plan only allows 25% of our total church capacity. For St. Michael's that means only 75 people per mass can attend. Therefore to comply with state mandates, we have instituted a registration process to attend mass so we do not exceed our capacity. You can register through EventBright.com, our website, FaceBook page, or by calling the parish office (518) 237-5151, please leave a message with your name and number coming.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CHURCH:

You will be **required to wear a mask**, in church, so please put on your mask in your car.

Social distancing and NYS regulations for COVID-19 will be in effect. Please enter the church through the front main doors. Elevator use will still be available for those who cannot climb the stairs, please ask an usher for assistance.

A parishioner will greet you ask your name and phone number. Hand sanitizer will be available at the door and you will be asked to use the sanitizer.

Please note that if you are running a temperature, you should not attend mass.

To maintain social distancing an usher will direct you were to sit.

Only Family members living in the same house may sit together.

CHANGES TO THE LITURGY:

Father will proceed from the Sacristy and return to the Sacristy after the dismissal.

Father will give a general absolution at the beginning of each Mass since Confession is not yet available.

There will be no procession.

There will be only the organist and cantor for music and only one reader for each Mass.

There will be NO offertory procession with the gifts and no collection of envelopes. A basket will be available in the back of the Church for you to place your offering prior to Mass.

The sign of peace will be exchanged without any touch, shaking hands or hugs. A simple smile, wave or nod of the head are acceptable gestures.

Social distancing during communion will be directed by the ushers.

Father will be the only one distributing Communion and he will wear a mask.

Communion will be distributed in the hand ONLY.

Reception of the precious Blood of Christ is suspended until further notice.

Please remain masked until it is time for you to receive and then return immediately to the mask.

ADDITIONAL CHANGES:

Gathering in the church hall, on the front steps and in the parking lots is prohibited.

There will be NO water in the Holy water fonts.

There will be NO Missalettes or hymn books.

Personal items such as books, flyers, hymn books or Missalettes are not allowed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these matters. While this must be the “new normal” for now, please remember that it is not permanent. With everyone's cooperation we will again be able to be in the presence of our dear Lord and receive him in the Eucharist. What Joy ! Our faith has carried us through this crisis and will continue to sustain us. As always, please do not hesitate to ask a question or offer a suggestion.

May God bless you and your family.