

# Guidelines and Safety Measures for Parishioners During Reopening

## **SPECIFIC to Lancaster County**

As of May 11, 2020, parishes and religious institutions in Lancaster County are permitted to gather for the celebration of liturgies while practicing appropriate behaviors for containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These guidelines are subject to change in the event of new instructions from local or state health officials and the Office of the Bishop.

### **General Guidelines:**

- The dispensation from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation remains in place.
- Gatherings are limited to the Sacred Liturgy, so all forms of public liturgies in churches are permitted.
- All other parish and school activities remain restricted, including after-Mass gatherings such as coffee and rolls, funeral luncheons, wedding receptions, etc. The Bishop has restricted outdoor Mass.

### **The following are encouraged to stay at home:**

- The sick
- The elderly
- People with underlying medical conditions
- Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk
- People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions
- People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms
- People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms
- People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19
- People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19

### **Requested “Containment Practices” for those attending Mass:**

- Family members sit together
- Sit in every other pew
- Cough in your sleeve
- Place your contribution envelope in the basket provided as you enter or exit the church. The ushers will not “take up the collection” during Mass
- No hand holding during the Our Father
- Sign of Peace is omitted
- Form a single file line with 6-foot intervals when processing forward to receive Holy Communion
- Follow the instructions of the ushers
- Avoid gathering in the vestibule or near the doors of the church following Mass
- If requested, assist with sanitizing the church and other public areas following Mass
- Attend Mass in your home parish