



IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DIRECTION
ABOUT ATTENDING MASS IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC
SAINT ELEANOR CATHOLIC CHURCH
COLLEGEVILLE

We rejoice as we continue to welcome back more and more of our Parish Family week by week. **Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we celebrate together in-person the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.**

We continue to do our part to ensure a peaceful and safe experience for all in these times. The CDC, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Archdiocese *announced new guidelines*. **We have updated information here in light of those guidelines.** It is good to know that the Archdiocese has shared that “there has not been a known traceable instance of contracting COVID-19 through the reception Holy Communion in the entire country.”

GENERAL POINTS

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has lifted all building sanitation, distancing, and capacity restrictions. You will notice that the blue painters’ tape is gone as well as the floor decals. Hand sanitizers are still available for your personal use.

The Faithful continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation until further notice. While you are **not** required to attend Mass in person at this time, *if you are healthy and with no underlying condition or other circumstance, we encourage your in-person participation at Holy Mass. There really is no substitute.* However,

please stay home ~ if you are sick, feel ill, or have a fever;

please stay home ~ if you are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. If you are uncertain about your risk status, please consult your doctor, and also check the CDC guidelines.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass continues to be available to all **via live stream**. Our **10:30 AM** Sunday Mass is live streamed weekly. You will be able to find it on our website, our YouTube channel, our Facebook page. Once it is aired, it remains available on those various platforms. **Our daily 9 AM Mass is also livestreamed on our Facebook page.**

For the spiritual and pastoral benefit of the faithful, several weeks notice will be provided as to when the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation will be reinstated by the Archbishop. Even when the obligation is restored, the faithful, *as always*, are excused legitimately from the obligation when they are seriously sick or caring for someone who is.

MASS SCHEDULE ~ All Masses are celebrated in our Main Church

WEEKDAY – 6:30 AM – Monday through Friday

9 AM – Monday through Saturday

WEEKEND – VIGIL MASS – 4:30 PM Saturday

SUNDAY – 7:30, 9, 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM

PARKING & ENTERING CHURCH

All parking areas are open for use. If parking in the back, large lot, please enter Church through the back Narthex doors which are unlocked for use.

We have begun using two ways into Church – the **front and back** doors into the Narthex and the **side doors** near the cry room leading to the Sixth Avenue lot. For leaving Church at the end of Mass, feel free to leave by any of the Church doors.

Hand sanitizers are available at the Church entrances. We encourage you to use these when entering and exiting Church.

As you enter the Church, you will be able to pick up a Worship Aid (which is included in the Parish Bulletin) to use during Mass and then to take home with you. Please do not leave it in Church.

Also, as you enter the doors into our main Church, there is a basket to accept your Sunday donation envelopes for the Parish as well as for any other collections. *All envelopes for any weekend or even second collections can be placed together in this same basket.* We are not taking up a physical collection during the Offertory of the Mass, at this time.

THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS AND MASKS ~ *We are following the guidance of the CDC* ~

The CDC guidance on the use of face coverings and masks does not allow for an easy observance since they apply differently to different groups of people at the same time— those fully vaccinated and those not vaccinated. Pennsylvania accepted the CDC guidelines immediately.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) new guidance is as follows: people who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus no longer need to wear masks or follow social distancing restrictions in most indoor and outdoor settings, except as required by state and local laws or other regulations. Therefore, our parishioners and visitors can freely comply with the relaxed measures with regard to face coverings/masks for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

Those who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering or a mask in the nave. If a face covering or mask is worn, it is, of course, removed for the reception of the Body of Christ at Communion.

At this time, we need to be guided by the principle that people are to be respectful of a person's choice not to wear or to wear a face covering or mask in churches in the Archdiocese.

SEATING

You are invited to take any seat in any pew as we are no longer required to observe social distancing or restrictions on capacity. We do ask everyone to be respectful of those who may wish some spacing while in Church. We have a team of helpers, *our Ambassadors*, to welcome and greet you as well as to answer any questions you may have.

DURING THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

Missalettes are not available. You are welcome to bring your own missal/readings with you. A WORSHIP AID (*included in the Parish Bulletin*) is available both on-line and for pick up when coming into Church. When leaving, please take this with you.

Presently, there is a cantor and organist at all the Masses. Singing is allowed and encouraged.

As noted above, there is no collection taken up during the Offertory of Mass. Please place your collection envelope into the marked basket as you enter the Church.

There is no Sign of Peace during Mass and the Precious Blood is not distributed.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The faithful may receive Holy Communion in the hand or on the tongue. There is no special line for those receiving Holy Communion on the tongue. Please come forward in any Communion line. However, those who receive a low-gluten Host are asked to continue to come to the center aisle and up to the Sanctuary where the priest or deacon with the designated sacred pyx will be sure that you receive Holy Communion.

When you near the Communion Minister, if you are wearing a mask, please remove your mask. Once the Host has been placed onto your hand or tongue, please move to the side a few feet to receive Our Blessed Lord and replace your mask to return to your pew.

EXITING THE CHURCH

At the conclusion of Mass, please exit the Church through any of the Church doors. Please take the parish bulletin/worship aid home with you.

FINAL THOUGHTS

To review the Archdiocesan guidelines and other helpful information, please visit: <https://www.archphila.org/arise> . We continue to monitor all the guidance being offered. We trust in our Lord Jesus who never abandons us and is with us now. Keeping our eyes on Him, we rejoice to worship together with abiding charity, prudence, and undiminished hope!

