

St. Luke Church Diocese of Norwich

Guidelines for the Restoration of Public Worship

Mass Schedule:

Weekday Mass will resume on Monday June 8th, 2020. Mass will be offered at 8 am Monday through Friday. More weekday Masses will be added if needed. For the time being the celebration of public Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday continues to be suspended until further notice.

Due to social distancing guidelines Masses will be limited to the number that may attend. If necessary an overflow Mass can take place in the Parish Center. Ushers and counters will be at the Church entrance and will let you know when limits have been reached.

Masks must be worn by adults and children over the age of 2 when in the Church.

Since the Sunday Obligation is suspended, we encourage the faithful to consider attending a Mass on a weekday.

Wherever feasible, hand sanitizer will be made available near building entrances. The faithful are reminded to carry their own hand sanitizer.

The side doors and the door to the back parking lot will be propped open before and after Mass to minimize contact with commonly touched surfaces. The front door main entrance (library side) will NOT be opened. Please do not close the doors.

The Celebration of Mass:

The weekend celebration of Mass can be watched on the church website at www.churchofstlukect.com.

Music: Choirs are discontinued until further notice.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are discontinued until further notice.

Altar Servers are discontinued until further notice.

The passing of the collection baskets are discontinued. Baskets will be available at both entrances to the Church for you to leave your contributions. You are encouraged to mail your donation to St. Luke Church P.O. Box 249 Ellington, CT 06029 or use online giving.

Reception of Holy Communion by the faithful:

Our attendance is first and foremost for the worship of Almighty God. The faithful are not required to receive Holy Communion every time they attend Mass.

All who present themselves for Holy Communion should be properly prepared to receive.

This preparation involves a careful examination of conscience and should regularly involve the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All the faithful are encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the hand. Anyone choosing to receive the Holy Communion on the tongue **must** wait until all other parishioners have received before coming forward.

Those not receiving Holy Communion should make an Act of Spiritual Communion.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion after Mass:

The distribution of Holy Communion will take place after Mass has concluded, which will allow for a staggered dismissal of the faithful from the church and avoid overcrowding at the doors. Upon receiving Holy Communion please exit the Church and return to your car. We encourage you to make appropriate thanksgiving after receiving Holy Communion in your car before leaving.

The faithful should maintain a 6-foot distance from each other as they come forward to receive Holy Communion.

The faithful should remove their face coverings just as they are about to receive Holy Communion and immediately replace their face covering once they have received.

Holy Communion **may not** be received in a gloved hand.

Further updates will be done as needed.

June 4th, 2020