



## Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church

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July 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

These past few months have been a challenge for all of us, and we thank you for your kind support and perseverance as we navigate through all the changes to keep everyone safe. As the scientific community continues to learn more about the coronavirus, adjustments to public Mass celebrations and safety protocols are constantly being revised to stay current and help prevent the spread.

While recent coronavirus reports focus on the air borne nature of the virus, Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg issued a letter yesterday addressing new guidelines for liturgical celebrations. Following are additional guidelines that go into effect *Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>*:

**Communion:** Distribution of the Eucharist will now move from the end of Mass to its usual position in the Mass following the same safety protocols, with sanitizers easily accessible, should a host minister accidentally make contact with an individual's hand. Everyone wishing to receive must approach wearing a mask and may only \*remove the mask to consume the Host, then reapply the mask while returning to their pews. \*Please be sure to handle masks by the ear bands to avoid contamination.

**Dismissal:** Physical distancing must be kept throughout the Mass and after its conclusion. With Communion returning to its usual position, we will now be in the pews at the end of Mass. To prevent prolonged exposure, please do not linger indoors or gather in groups outside before or after Mass while on church premises. Under the guidance of ushers, parishioners are to exit the building immediately, following the same protocols as before: facing the altar – right-side pews exit through the back doors starting at the rear pew, and left-side pews exit through the side doors starting at the front pew.

In addition to the above changes, Archbishop Paul Etienne recently issued a new **Decree on Policies Regarding the Eucharist** "with a desire for a more profound and visible unity around the altar of the Lord." *The following changes also go into effect immediately and must be fully implemented by Advent 2020:*

**Kneeling after Agnus Dei (Lamb of God):** During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we currently kneel right after the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer. In

addition to this practice, *we now must also kneel after the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)* unless impeded by reasons of health, lack of space, or some other good reason.

**Upon receiving Communion:** Communicants are to bow their heads as a gesture of reverence when receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord; Holy Communion is to be received standing. Upon returning to the pews following the reception of Holy Communion, the faithful may kneel or sit.

**Communion for the Homebound:** Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are not permitted to place consecrated hosts into a pyx presented by an individual for the homebound, nor are they permitted to access to the tabernacle to do so. It is the obligation of the Pastor that the Blessed Sacrament taken to the sick is placed in a pyx blest for this purpose. Therefore, going forward at our parish: 1) The pyx should be given to the Liturgy Coordinator (Carmela Wolf) or delegate to place upon the altar before Mass. 2) The priest will supply the pyx with the Host during Mass (please affix a note on the pyx indicating the number of Hosts needed), and 3) will be returned to the homebound minister at the end of Mass. 4) When the closing song begins and as the priest moves to the front of the altar, homebound ministers are to come forward and line up on the bottom step to the right of the priest and receive their pyx. 5) Once received, they shall bow together and exit with the priest in the closing procession.

Please keep in mind that Hosts for the homebound are only reserved for the sick and dying, and it is discouraged to receive Communion outside of the church for any other reason, including those who are vulnerable and refraining from public Masses as dispensation remains in place.

Once again, we thank you for your kind patience and support as we implement these new changes to the liturgy. Your continued cooperation in following coronavirus safety protocols have helped our parish family stay safe. And as we move forward with the new policies regarding the Eucharist, may we be further unified and look to the Eucharist with deeper reverence and as a source of grace during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Duc Nguyen*

Fr. Duc Nguyen  
Pastor