

**New Guidelines for Sunday Masses  
as of July 31, 2021**

1. Since June 27, it has once again been made obligatory for Catholics in our diocese to attend Mass on Sundays, unless they are unable to do so because of ill health or other serious reasons. The dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass which had been given to us during the pandemic will now be abrogated and the obligation will be reinstated. However, those who are not comfortable attending in-person may request further dispensation from their pastor. Those who are ill, vulnerable to serious illness, or caring for a vulnerable person have a serious reason to refrain from participation in Sunday Mass and do not need to obtain this special dispensation.
2. Please DO NOT ATTEND MASS if you are unwell. Just as in pre-Pandemic, we should all be respectful of others if we are not well. Those who are not feeling well or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend Mass.
3. Our parish will continue to provide Livestream Masses for the sake of those who are sick and homebound.
4. Outdoor Masses will be discontinued because the distancing requirements within the church have been removed. Outdoor seating will be allowed at all Masses in shaded areas outside the open doors of the church. Please bring your own chairs for outdoor seating.
5. Be respectful of those who might still feel afraid to return to Mass. The diocese has directed that those who are not fully vaccinated are to wear a mask at Mass, and that even those who are vaccinated are highly encouraged to wear a mask. However, this will not be enforced by means of verification, but rather on an honor system. Some vaccinated persons may choose to wear a mask because they are taking care of a vulnerable loved one. Please be considerate of those who might be afraid of sitting next to someone who is not wearing a mask. Those who feel most concerned about contagion may sit in the South transept of the church where there will be increased social distancing (two pews closed between each open pew). Please be respectful and do not judge others for their decisions as regards wearing or not wearing a mask at Mass.
6. We are no longer required to enforce social distancing and capacity limits in the church, but at Presentation Parish we will continue to close some of the pews so that there is at least one empty pew between each pew that is occupied. Parishioners may sit in any open pew. Some particularly vulnerable persons may choose to sit outside the church, or in the Southwest section of our church where there will be increased distancing between occupied pews (two empty pews between each occupied pew).
7. Holy Water fonts will again be made available to the faithful and will be cleaned/emptied regularly.
8. Congregational singing is now permitted. You may prefer to just listen to the cantor, but if you wish to sing you can sing out loud to the Lord!
9. Please read the full statement given by the bishop by going to the parish or diocesan websites.  
<https://www.presentationchurch.net/>  
<https://stockondiocese.org/covidguidelines>

**Wearing masks is highly recommended!**