

# St. John the Evangelist & St. Joseph Gnesen Parish Protocols

*December 2020*

We thank you for considering joining us in the Christmas liturgies at our parishes this year! We have been safely and thoughtfully celebrating public Masses for the last six months and ask that you review the below procedures in preparation for worshipping with us this Christmas!

- We ask you to wear a mask if over the age of five.
- Upon entering the Church, you will find hand sanitizer near each entrance. Please use hand sanitizer before entering the Sanctuary.
- Our parish is accommodating a seating capacity limit of 50%. Every other pew is roped off to allow for adequate distancing between the pews. Please sit in open rows and maintain 6 feet of distance from those not in your household. Members of the same household are welcome to sit together.
  - **Additional seating will be available in the social hall and in the gathering space for all of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.** We will have ushers who will assist you in finding a place to sit. They will start with the Church itself before utilizing the social hall and gathering space.
- There is no congregational singing at this time. The choir will lead hymns, and at the midnight Mass the choir will sing the parts of the Mass and responses as well.
- The priest and deacons will distribute Holy Communion from the front of the Sanctuary but the congregation will utilize the side aisles for the Communion line and then return to their pew via the center aisle. We will have a deacon bring Communion to the overflow sections at St. John's.
- For Holy Communion please be mindful of distancing while in line. Upon reaching the front of the line you will find a hand sanitizing station. Please pull down your mask, sanitize your hands and proceed forward to receive the Eucharist. Return your mask to your face upon consuming the Eucharist. If the priest/deacon senses that his fingers have made contact with a person's hand or mouth they will pause and sanitize their hands before continuing with distribution.
- After each liturgy our staff will sanitize the pews and high touch areas of the parish before the next scheduled Mass.