

# MASS DETAILS

03.08.22

Since Covid-19 safety guidance has varied greatly over the past year, here is a comprehensive summary of current guidance.

During this Lenten season, we are excited to welcome more people for in-person liturgies and events. Please remember that some people may be coming to Mass for the first time in a long time. We want them to feel welcome and safe at St. John Vianney. Given this expected increase of people, please consider the following:

- Mass is not a high-risk activity; tens of thousands of Masses have taken place in the Archdiocese of Seattle and we have no cases of anyone contracting COVID from attending Mass.
- Please self-screen and stay home if sick
- Based on the updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, and the Washington State Department of Health, masks will no longer be required in the Archdiocese of Seattle starting this Saturday, March 12. We are fortunate that our church resides in a county deemed low risk on the [CDC's risk map](#). If you choose to wear a mask and forget yours, we will have some available.
- Hand sanitizer stations will remain available.
- There continue to be areas of the church reserved for people who wish to sit physically distanced. Masks will be required in these areas.
- The ventilation system and air filters will be running. Doors will also be open, so we encourage you to come with coats on.
- Livestream during the Saturday 5:00pm Mass will continue to be available for our homebound parishioners.

## **Mass activities that have returned include:**

- The Sign of Peace
- Offertory basket passing
- Inviting people to bring up the gifts
- Holy Water in the baptismal font
- Incense
- Items in the pews
- Worship aids, including reusable ones
- Cleaning and sanitizing of common use areas has returned to pre-COVID practices
- Entrance/recessional processions
- There will be a limited choir at the Sunday 9:00am Mass. The congregation may respond in song to certain Mass parts. Please look to your cantor for guidance.

## **Mass Restrictions that are still in place:**

- Distribution of Precious Blood

**We are doing our best to continue to provide a safe space to worship for everyone. We understand that not everyone is comfortable without a mask at this time, and we also realize that not everyone wants to continue mask use. We welcome all people regardless of their mask preference and wish to provide a welcoming environment so that we may continue to carry out the mission of the Church. We appreciate all of our parishioners understanding both sides and respecting everyone's choice in the body of Christ.**