



TEMPLATE FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PARISHIONERS ABOUT RETURNING TO MASS

Consider sending the text below to your parishioners via email, a hard copy mailing and also posting it on the home page of your parish website. This text may be edited as needed.

The goal of this communication is to offer the faithful clear, simple and easy-to-follow instructions. Try to avoid giving unnecessary details (for example, details that concern only liturgical ministers and ushers) and micro-managing actions such that it will cause people confusion and uneasiness.

The text in red is where you can insert the information specific to your parish. Be sure to remove all red text before sending your email.

[Proposed introduction- feel free to edit]

Great news! Archbishop Pérez has announced that parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be able to resume public Masses the weekend of June 6 and 7. We at **[your parish name]** look forward to welcoming you back! **Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we make our way back to the in person celebration of the Mass.**

While our county remains in the Yellow Phase of statewide reopening, all of us need to do our part to make sure that our return to Mass is a peaceful and safe experience for all. Please take the time to read the instructions below. We ask everyone to follow these guidelines when attending Mass during this period:

GENERAL POINTS

- The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation continues to be lifted during the Yellow Phase. You are not required to attend Mass at this time.
- Please stay home if you are sick.

- Please stay home if you are at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. If you are uncertain about your risk status, please consult your doctor and also the CDC Guidelines at the link below.
 - Click here to read the CDC Guidelines for those at higher risk:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>
- Mass will continue to be available via live-stream.
 - [Insert your parish's live-stream information here. If your parish does not offer live-stream, please include information about live-stream at the Cathedral, a nearby parish or on television such as EWTN.]

MASS SCHEDULE

- [insert your parish's Mass schedule here]

BEFORE COMING TO MASS

- Please wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Before entering the Church, please put on a face mask or cloth covering. Exceptions to this are “children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance” (CDC Guidelines).
- Please do not come to Mass if you are sick or are at higher risk for severe illness with COVID19 (see above).
- Missalettes will not be in the pews during this period. You are welcome to bring your own missal/readings with you.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

- [Insert your parish's instructions about which entrances parishioners should use to enter the Church. If all entrances will be open, please state this.]
- Hand sanitizers will be available at the Church entrances. Please use the hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the Church.
- [Insert instructions here about picking up a single-use worship aid, if applicable. Reminder: Ushers are not to hand out worship aids or bulletins.]

SEATING

- When taking your seat, please honor all posted signs about where you may sit. Every other pew [or every third pew] will be open to ensure proper social distancing.
- Members of the same household may sit together as normal. Please place 6 feet between your household and members of a different household.
- [If applicable, insert a note about ushers being present to assist people with seating.]

DURING MASS

- [Insert instructions here about singing]
- [Insert instructions about the collection: (1) “There will be no collection taken up during the Offertory”...insert instructions here about where people can leave their gift. Or (2) “A collection will be taken up during the Offertory as usual using long-handled baskets.”]
- There will be no Sign of Peace during Mass during the Yellow Phase.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed during Mass during the Yellow Phase.
- There should be no holding of hands during the Our Father.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- [Insert your parish’s instructions about the Communion line here. e.g. one single Communion line, where to line up, in which aisles, etc....]
- Please maintain social distancing in the Communion line. Please keep several pews between yourself and the person in front of you while in line and when returning to your pew.
- During the Yellow Phase, the faithful are asked to receive Holy Communion in the hand. [Insert your parish’s provisions for those who wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue – e.g. a separate line or location, etc....]
- Please remove your mask before receiving Holy Communion.

EXITING THE CHURCH

- At the conclusion of Mass, please exit the Church and proceed directly to your car. Please do not congregate for any reason.
- Please take a parish bulletin home with you [insert instructions about where to pick up the parish bulletin. Again, bulletins are not to be distributed by ushers at this time.]
- Please leave your mask on until you exit the Church.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

[Insert parish name] will follow the guidelines from the CDC for sanitation as we resume public Masses.

- To view the CDC guidelines, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html>
- [Insert here a brief description of your parish’s sanitation procedures here including the frequency at which you will clean the Church, the removal of all hymnals and Missals, etc...]

[Insert your closing remarks and salutation]