

# General Guide for Worshiping at St. Thomas of Villanova Church

## Before Arrival

- Please wash your hands with soap & water for 20 seconds and bring a face mask for everyone attending. Face shields are not allowed.
- Gathering Area doors will be open 20 minutes before each Mass. **Please do not begin gathering any earlier than 20 minutes before your reserved Mass time.** All other doors will be locked

## Check-In

1. Park in the south lot and enter through the south Gathering Area doors.
2. Observe social distancing rule while you are waiting to be greeted.
3. Please wait patiently for volunteer #1 to greet you and verify the following:
  - You are on the reservation list
  - You are wearing a face mask that covers your nose and mouth.
  - You are not ill, have a temperature or been exposed directly to COVID-19 in the last 14 days
4. You will then be asked to wait until volunteer #2 is ready to escort you into the Church.
5. Once in Church, you must sanitize your hands before being seated.

***NOTE: Doors close 5 minutes after Mass begins to allow volunteers to continue their duties during Mass.***

## Seating

- Seats are filled from left to right (facing the altar) and back to front in the order you arrive.
- Please remain in your assigned seat throughout the Mass.
- Only the restrooms in the back of church are open for one person at a time.

*Mass should proceed as normal, but a few things should be noted:*

- You must keep your face mask over your mouth and nose for the duration of the Mass.
- Currently, there is no singing during the Mass but take the time to pray the words in your heart.
- Listen carefully to directives and follow the guidance of the volunteers.
- There will be no collection during Mass. You can place your donation in the offertory box as you enter/exit the church or consider setting up online giving through GiveCentral or continue to mail in your contribution.

## Communion

1. Please stay in your seat until an usher dismisses your pew.
2. Everyone must leave their pew to avoid crossing over people. If you are not receiving the Eucharist, simply cross your arms for a blessing as you approach the altar.
3. An usher will dismiss your pew and provide hand sanitizer for you to rub in your hands.
4. Please follow the 6 foot socially distanced markers on the floor when approaching the Priest/Deacon.
5. Approach the Priest/Deacon only after you are called forward. **DO NOT REMOVE YOUR MASK.**
6. Extend your hands to receive the Eucharist.
7. Step 6 feet away from the Priest/Deacon, remove your mask and consume the Eucharist.
8. Replace your mask.
9. Follow instructions to return to your pew.

## Dismissal

- You will need to remain in your seat until an usher dismisses your pew.
- Don't forget to check your pew before leaving for any of your belongings.

The above steps have been made in effort to keep you safe. As a reminder, Cardinal Cupich has continued the dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Thank you for your patience and adherence to these rules.