

ST. PETER'S PARISH
TRACADIE, N.S
COVID-19: GUIDELINES for SAFE RE-OPENING

- COVID remains a danger to our community, province, country and world. We **MUST NOT** let our guards down. Celebration of Mass is **NO** exception.
- We as a Parish must abide by thoughtful and all applicable guidelines set forth by Public Health Authorities to ensure the safety of all while being able to worship well. We must all practice patience as we learn to adapt to a new form of attending Holy Mass.
- The numbers at any given Mass set by the Office of the Bishop is 200 people, provided that Social Distancing can be maintained in the space being used. Parishioners are asked to ATTEND ONLY ONE MASS PER WEEKEND. Up to 200 people will be permitted, on a first come first served basis.
- Holy Water fonts will be empty.
- Choirs and other gatherings of people will be discontinued until further notice.
- As regulations are fluid and ever changing, please note that the procedures outlines herein are subject to change as directed by public health officials. Also note that while guidelines set by government officials must be adhered to, the Office of the Bishop may impose further restrictions in order to facilitate the safe re-opening of its churches.
- As we are required to keep record of all parishioners attending each Mass, prior to entering the church, all parishioners (one per household) will be required to complete a brief screening questionnaire, as well as to provide names and contact number for attendees, in the name of Public Health contact tracing in the event of an outbreak. A copy of this questionnaire is provided on the reverse side of this notice - there is no need to print this form, as attendees will be interviewed upon arrival at the church using the questionnaire.
- Parishioners are asked to remain in their cars until directed to proceed up the walkway to the church to be screened prior to entering the church, in order to avoid clusters of people gathering outside the church.
- Collection will be taken up upon entering the church, prior to sanitizing hands before proceeding to seat as directed by the usher.
- Parishioners will be required to sanitize hands upon entering the church and will be directed to a pew by an usher. Parishioners are asked to respect the markings in the church, including those areas that have been marked off limits, as these markings have been placed in accordance with social distancing guidelines.
- Parishioners will be seated on the markings in each pew. Members of the same household will be seated together using the side pews, while individual parishioners will be seated in the centre pews, and then in remaining side pews as marked as availability permits. **Families will NOT be permitted to sit together in the longer centre (left and right) pews.**
- In an effort to minimize contamination and to eliminate a false sense of security, as recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada, **GLOVES ARE PROHIBITED** inside the church.
- Holy Communion will necessitate social distancing be followed by using the markings on the floor of the centre aisle. The Priest and parishioners will be required to dawn their face coverings during this time, as social distancing will **NOT** be possible at the point of distribution of communion from the Priest. Ushers will direct the flow of traffic during this time to minimize congestion.
- Face coverings will be **MANDATORY** for all parishioners during distribution of communion as social distancing is not possible. Disposable masks will be made available at each Mass for those who arrive without. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their own masks. Remember, it's not just about your comfort and safety – it's about the safety of others too.
- Holy Communion will be distributed on the hand only for the time being. It is **NOT** permitted to bring Holy Communion outside the Church to anyone for the time being.
- Parishioners will be required to sanitize hands **just prior** to receiving Holy Communion, and not before. The Priest will sanitize his hands prior to the distribution of communion.
- Parishioners are asked to receive communion in their hand and then proceed to the marking on the floor to the right or left of the priest at the front of the church, prior to removing their face covering to consume the host.
- Parishioners will then be required to sanitize hands following the consumption of communion, prior to returning to their seat with their face covering in place.
- Following each Mass, a group of volunteers will sanitize surfaces throughout the church, including pews, kneelers, doorknobs, etc.
- Parishioners will exit the Church while maintaining social distancing immediately following the Mass, beginning with the back pews first, as directed by the usher. Please refrain from lingering to socialize with others. No hugs, handshakes or getting close to others.
- Confession will be available by appointment only and will be provided maintaining social distancing protocols.
- The vestry area, including washroom facilities, will be unavailable until further notice.

- **Those who are considered vulnerable and those who care for them SHOULD NOT attend Mass.** We recognize that there will be some who may not be able to attend church for health reasons, due to capacity restrictions, or simply because they are not yet comfortable attending Mass. Those parishioners are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass.
- **PLEASE: if you are sick, especially a fever, cold, the flu, or feeling poorly for any reason – STAY HOME!!**
- Any parishioners who would consider volunteering for any of the following roles, please contact Angie Connors (902-386-2959):
 - Traffic flow directors
 - Greeters (screening questionnaires)
 - Hand sanitizer distributors
 - Ushers
 - Post Mass cleaners (surface wipe downs)

It is critical to keep in mind that we are still in the midst of a pandemic, and our primary concern must be for the life and health of the whole community. We must continue to pray for the people in our community and our world as we begin to move forward and heal from the devastation of this pandemic.

**ST. PETER'S PARISH
HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date:	Contact Phone Number:
--------------	------------------------------

Name of Attendees (1 form per household):

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

1	<p>Are you or any of the persons listed above exhibiting any of the following symptoms? - If so, please specify</p> <p align="center"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Fever <input type="checkbox"/> Runny Nose <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Cough <input type="checkbox"/> Unusual fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of smell or taste <input type="checkbox"/> Body Aches <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of Breath <input type="checkbox"/> Hoarse voice <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches <input type="checkbox"/> Sneezing <input type="checkbox"/> Sore Throats <input type="checkbox"/> Red, purple or blue lesions on hands or feet without clear cause </p>
2	<p>Have you (or anyone name above) travelled, or been exposed to anyone who has travelled outside of the Atlantic region in the last 14 days?</p> <p align="center"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p>
3	<p>Has anyone in your household been quarantined (self or directed) or identified as a COVID-19 confirmed or suspected case?</p> <p align="center"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p>
4	<p>To your knowledge have you (or anyone named above) been exposed to anyone who has been quarantined (self or directed) or identified as a COVID-19 confirmed or suspected case?</p> <p align="center"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p>