



To all the parishioners of Saint Anselm Parish –

I come to you with magnificent news; Archbishop Pérez has announced that the parishes of Philadelphia and its suburbs will be able to resume public Masses the weekend of June 6 and 7. We at Saint Anselm’s 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 Philadelphia and the surrounding counties remain 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 what probably will be the summer months and maybe the early fall →

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 obligated (there is no sin due to not attending church) to come to Mass at this time.
- Please stay home if you are feeling ill or fighting symptoms of the COVID virus or the FLU!
- 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>
 - I have not decided if we will continue to record our Sunday Mass and make it available to you our parishioners. Depending on attendance I will make that decision in the month of June. I would recommend that if you DO NOT wish to attend Mass here at Saint Anselm in June, to plan to watch Mass either on 6ABC or EWTN or online on the Facebook page of the Archdiocese.

MASS SCHEDULE

- We will be following our usual Mass schedule for June 6 / 7:

- Mass will be celebrated Saturday at 5:00 pm
 - Confessions will be heard from 3:30 – 4:30 pm; not in the confessional. Location to be determined this week.
- Sunday it will be celebrated at 8:00 am (*with no music*), 10:00 am, and 12 Noon.

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. We will provide preprinted sheets with the opening hymn, closing hymn and parts of the Mass that are usually sung. We have been instructed to reduce singing and to keep it simple as we return to church.

ENTERING THE CHURCH

- Enter as you always do for Mass – using the usual entrances. The so called “D” door that gains you entrance by the school hallway will be locked for the next couple weeks until we can figure out logistics of attendance and the flow of parishioners.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at the main and side Church entrances. Please use the hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the Church.
- Holy Water will be provided in automated dispensers. DO NOT touch or get these dispensers dirty – a small amount of Holy Water is dispensed in the palm of the hand, as you would use an automatic soap dispenser at a store or hospital.
- We will be placing worship aids (loose paper) that has the hymns and parts of Mass printed, please take one as you enter. DO NOT LEAVE THESE when you depart – take them with you and trash them – we cannot share germs. Bulletins **WILL NOT** be available before Mass, and if you take one TAKE IT HOME! No leaving any papers, flyers, bulletins, or prayer cards in church. If any are left, ALL will be trashed immediately following each Mass.

SEATING

- When taking your seat, please honor all posted signs about where you may sit. We are planning on leaving two pews in between each attendee to ensure proper social distancing of 6 feet apart:
 - Members of the same household may sit together as normal. Please keep 6 feet between your household and members of a different household.
 - We will mark sections of pews for single persons, for families and for our senior members of the parish. PLEASE DO NOT mix this up, so that everyone feels safe and healthy in church!

- At this time, we are not sure what volunteers will be ushering. Baskets will be placed in the sanctuary and back of church for donations and envelopes; no bulletins will be handed out after Mass nor will there be any left in church following the conclusion of Mass so that all can be kept safe and healthy.

DURING MASS

- Regarding the music of Mass:
 - We will have an opening and closing hymn provided on the music worship aids
 - Some parts of the Mass will NOT be sung – and we will do our best to simplify participating since masks will be worn in church by all those attending.
- There will be no Sign of Peace during Mass during the Yellow Phase.
- The Precious Blood will not be distributed during Mass at ANY point until we get the all clear from the Archdiocese. I do not expect this until a vaccine is created and available to all of us. Also, a gentle reminder that there should be no holding of hands during Mass or during the Our Father. Please keep social distance and your hands to yourself.

Regarding the Reception of the Blessed Sacrament:

- For the distribution of Holy Communion:
 - Holy Communion will be distributed at the usual time of Mass
 - We ask that everyone continue to wear your mask as you come forward
 - There will be SINGLE file lines in the main aisle and two side aisles
 - Please leave SIX (6) feet in between each person – my advice would be as a person goes up do not follow them until they have returned to the opposite end of the pew in which they are sitting
 - As you process up, receive our Lord in Holy Communion in your palm, step aside, take off your mask either to the side or in your pew and receive Jesus into your mouth – use hand sanitizer (*bring your own*) after putting your mask back on
 - For those who must receive on the tongue –
 - a station for these individuals will be placed in the church at the altar of the Blessed Mother – please use the center aisle, step aside to the priest or deacon standing in front of the BVM altar, remove your mask and receive Jesus upon your tongue. If you do not open your mouth wide enough for the comfort of the clergy member; you will not be given Holy Communion!
 - After you have received upon the tongue and put your mask back on, please use hand sanitizer to cleanse your hands
 - Thank you for your kind understanding of these **mandatory** rules for the Distribution of Holy Communion – there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Please place your mask BACK ON after receiving Jesus and before you stand for the end of Mass and dismissal.
- Be patient and follow all directives given before Mass begins

EXITING THE CHURCH

- At the conclusion of Mass, please exit the Church and proceed directly to your car. We ask that no one socialize in church so that we can immediately begin disinfecting the pews and seats in church after Mass concludes...
- Please take a parish bulletin home with you – these will be at the usual tables, and if you take one *do not leave it* in church! You must take what you read in the pew. Thank you!
- Please leave your mask on until you exit the Church and use sanitizer as you leave.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU:

Saint Anselm 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>
- I am requesting parishioners volunteer to stay after Mass and clean our pews. Sanitizer spray and rags will be provided. Gloves can be worn. Please email father.rossi@stanselmeparish.com or call and leave a voicemail at the parish if you would be willing to do this after the Mass you attend each week.
- We also will need assistance in ushering people to correct pews and sections of church. If you would be willing to assist in this ministry, please let Father Rossi know by email or call and leave a voicemail.
- Thank you again for your consideration and understanding of these rules and restrictions. We the parish priests will be incredibly happy to see you all return to Mass and celebrate together the Eucharist. It has been as difficult for all of us priests not being able to celebrate Mass in public as it has been for each of you watching Mass on TV or computer screen instead of joining us in church as we usually have done.
- May the Lord bless the community of Saint Anselm Church and may we all stay safe and healthy as we enter the month of June!

+ Father Rossi, *Parochial Administrator*
 Fathers Mekonnen and Dalin
 Deacons Warner and Whartenby