

Saint Joseph and Saint Patrick Burrillville, RI



Prospective Plan for
Returning to Public Worship

Part 1: Preparation

A. Remote Preparation

1. The Pastor will communicate with the parishioners using various means (i.e. web sites of both parishes; email; video on *YouTube*) the protocols and procedures that both locations will employ to safely and slowly begin to return to public worship at ***Saint Joseph & Saint Patrick Burrillville*** which will be accomplished in phases, following and mirroring the phases spelled out in the guidelines set forth for the State of Rhode Island and the Diocese of Providence.
2. The Pastor will note the following in all communications:
 - a. the Parish intends to comply with any and all laws, regulations, guidelines and recommendations by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Department of Health, and, where appropriate, by the local authorities (e.g., Burrillville Department of Emergency Management) as well as by the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence and/or his delegates and Diocesan Offices;
 - b. Live-streamed and/or pre-recorded worship services will continue to be available via the Parish *Youtube* channel (St Joseph & St. Parick Burrilville, RI) for the benefit of those who choose to remain at home for whatever reason and assist at a worship service remotely and virtually;
 - c. the dispensation granted by the Most Reverend Bishop, removing the obligation to attend Sunday/Holyday Masses is extended;
 - d. that those who are experiencing **any symptoms of any sickness** or illness must stay at home and those who are part of the vulnerable

or "at-risk" population as identified by civil officials are encouraged to stay at home;

e. due to the restrictions on the size of gatherings in the State of Rhode Island, the procedure for "signing up" for a particular worship service or reserving a place at one will be thoroughly considered and after the first weekend of opening, if this is instituted it will be clearly explained with the protocol to follow when arriving at the worship site;

f. a team of volunteers will be trained to serve as "Hospitality Volunteers" (referred to as "HV" in this document) and those who are sacristans (those who care for the sanctuary and prepare whatever is needed for each worship service) as well as the maintenance staff will be trained in their roles regarding sanitation of worship-space surfaces.

3. Those planning to attend will be advised to:

- a. stay home should they have any symptoms of any sickness/illness;
- b. check their temperature before leaving home to come to St. Joseph church or St. Patrick church;
- c. be reminded that the restroom access will be limited;
- d. wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water or a disinfectant or hand wipes;
- e. wear their mask or cloth facial covering at all times in and around the worship space;
- f. have their offering envelope(s) ready to deposit in the designated bag as they enter the worship space;
- g. form a single line outdoors, maintaining a distance of six feet between persons should this become necessary as people arrive for worship.

B. Proximate Preparation

1. The team of volunteers who will assist at worship services as well as the sacristans, altar servers, and any other persons who assist in the worship space will wear a mask or cloth facial covering at all times

and, after sanitizing their hands, disposable, plastic gloves will be worn, whenever appropriate;

2. All surfaces that attendees may touch will be sanitized with an anti-bacterial/anti-virus solution;
3. Holy water fonts remain empty throughout the worship space until further notice;
4. The designated "entrance door(s)" will be left wide open (except when weather does not permit, and then HVs will open and close the door(s) as attendees arrive;
5. Sacristans who prepare the altar breads for the reception of Holy Communion will sanitize their hands, put on disposable gloves, and fill the ciboria (sacred, gold vessel that contains the Sacred Species) with altar breads directly from the containers, thereby not touching any altar breads; gloves will be discarded after each use.

Part 2: Entering and Using the Worship Space

A. Arrival of Attendees

1. Attendees enter through the designated entry door(s) which (weather permitting) are kept wide open to avoid touching them;
2. The HVs welcome those arriving and, if an attendee does not have a mask or cloth facial covering, a one-time use mask or cloth mask will be provided; then, attendees will be asked to place any/all offering envelopes and/or loose currency in the safe, secure receptacle since no collection baskets will be passed during the service;

3. *Attendees will sanitize their hands by a attendant that will pour a drop of hand sanitizer before they enter the church to be escorted to the pew; Attendees will be seated from the front to the back of the church;*
4. The use of worship aids will be determined based on the phases outlined in the guidance issued by the State of Rhode Island; during
 - Phase 1:* no worship aids will be used;
 - Phase 2:* hymns will be provided online for those participating to print out and bring with them to the designated Mass time, members will be ask to discard them following Mass;
 - Phase 3:* the music books *may be* used, depending on the circumstances, but they will be sanitized after each use; or laminated sheets will be used which will be sanitized after each use;
5. HVs will escort the attendees to their designated seats which have already been clearly marked with masking tape on the pew of the worship space; attendees will be seated 6 feet apart (in all directions) but family members or those who live in the same household may be invited to sit together *if they choose*; attendees will be asked to stay in their assigned seat(s) for the duration of the worship service.

B. During the Worship Service

1. The Offertory Procession is omitted;
2. The exchange of the "Sign of Peace" is omitted;
3. The Priest-Celebrant or an Assisting Priest will remind the faithful gathered at the worship service that receiving Holy Communion is

not required; they may decide to make a "Spiritual Communion" (a prayer and not the actual reception of the Holy Eucharist);

4. For those who choose to receive Holy Communion, HVs will invite them forward by rows, coming forward in a single line, maintaining a distance of six feet apart (except for families or those living in the same household who are already seated together);
5. The Priest-Celebrant as well as an Assisting Priest will be the only ministers of Holy Communion, following the liturgical guidelines issued by the *Diocesan Office of Divine Worship* and respecting the guidance of health authorities; directions about receiving Holy Communion will be given by the priest(s).

C. Leaving after the Service

1. Before leaving, the congregation will be asked to depart from the back to the front during phase I. Phase II: leave their printed music sheets (if applicable) or Phase II: their vinyl-covered worship aids on their seats (if applicable), as this will indicate to the HVs where someone actually sat so those areas can be disinfected following the service; if paper worship aids were used, they will be discarded after each use;
2. Those in attendance will be reminded that there should not be any social gathering either inside the worship space or outside and to have patience with those who might need a little more time to exit; masks or cloth facial coverings must be kept on until attendees reach their vehicles;
3. HVs will invite attendees to exit the worship space beginning with those in the back and moving forward towards the altar.

Part 3: Post-Worship Service

1. HVs and Sacristans will go through the worship space and sanitize with

disinfectant spray and/or wipes every area where attendees sat as well as any frequently-touched surfaces throughout the worship space;

2. In Phase 3, if vinyl-covered worship aids were used, they will be sanitized and placed on the mobile carts, and put away for use at another time later;
3. Any other areas that need to be sanitized will be cleaned and sanitized as well as the restrooms, if they have been used during that particular service.