

## Parish Masses and Health

All COVID-19 Public Health Orders were lifted on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 with some exceptions (health care facilities).

At the Parish of St. Timothy, we would still encourage and recommend masking when attending Mass, and making those decisions based on personal preference, risk or other reasons that should be considered factors. This is the same logic that we have regarding physical distancing, which is no longer required by our provincial authorities, but we would still encourage and recommend distancing be done between whenever and wherever possible and according to personal factors. Our church has brought back the original chairs into the nave in a similar format that was used pre-pandemic, but we enlarged the distance between rows for a bit more space than before. This formation allows for almost 300 seats in the nave, down from about 350 pre-pandemic, which means more seats as options for households to sit with some distance and empty seats between other households.

Please continue to be considerate, as you have been, of the space you leave between yourself and others, whether sitting, in the Communion procession, or walking around the rest of the church.

With the chairs moved back, we then had a place to store the hymnals for use during Mass. Singing has been permitted for a while, but not as encouraged as pre-pandemic. With the hymnals back, we welcome you to sing along in the Mass for the hymns and not just the Ordinary parts of the Mass that we all know by heart. If you wish to sing though, we would strongly recommend that you wear a mask while doing so out of consideration for those around you.

We all are eager to return to greater normalcy, but COVID-19 will still be a factor for a long time to come, so it's important that we return to our destination safely and united in care for one another as the Body of Christ.

I am, in our Lord, yours.  
Fr. Brian Trueman

Things to Note:

The general dispensation from Sunday Mass, which was mandated at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic is lifted. The lifting of the general dispensation marks a return to normal liturgical practice, with the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Our desire, in doing so, is to foster a renewed sense of community in our parishes by encouraging the faithful to return to church in person. However, this is made while assuring a spirit of safety, security and a respect for the physical or emotional well-being of people. If, therefore, for reasons of personal health or emotional well-being a parishioner is not ready to return to attending Mass in person, that person should not feel obligated to do so. To read the clarification from the diocese in its entirety, [click here](#).

There is plenty of hand-sanitizer at all the entrances.

If you are sick or have symptoms of colds or covid, please stay home and get better.

If you are not able to attend Mass in person, we are still planning to live-stream our Sunday Masses into the foreseeable future.

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