



Updated Guidance for Mass at St. Mary Parish – Littleton, effective October 13, 2020

As you may already be aware, Archbishop Samuel Aquila released updated guidance for public Mass effective October 1, 2020 (see <https://denvercatholic.org/updated-parish-guidelines-for-public-masses/> for specifics on the guidance). The updates included some changes to receiving communion on the tongue, occupancy limits, and the requirement of wearing face coverings at Mass. Beginning October 1st, we implemented the new guidance for communion on the tongue; we have also increased our occupancy level at each Mass from 204 to 230. The Pastor has the final decision as to how each specific parish will interpret the guidance.

For your information, guidance from the Tri-County Health Dept. and the State of Colorado requires that all individuals wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when entering or moving within any Public Indoor Spaces including houses of worship. The Archbishop's guidance also has the same requirement stated in the document referenced above.

After much discussion, our decision regarding changes to the wearing of face coverings at Mass has been made as follows: at all Masses, the faithful will continue to wear face coverings while entering, moving about, going forward for communion, and exiting all indoor spaces. At some Masses (see below), when you are seated or standing in the pew, and while physically distanced from other individuals or family units, the faithful MAY lower their face covering if they are not singing; if they are singing, face coverings must be worn continually.

This is our new policy, however we understand that there are many of you with serious health concerns. Therefore, we have set aside specific Masses at which face coverings will continue to be required throughout the Mass with no exceptions.

- The schedule for Masses that follow the new guidance allowing for lowering of face coverings while seated or standing in the pew (and not singing) is: Saturday, 5:45 pm; Sunday, 9:30 am and 5:00 pm.
- The schedule for Masses with no lowering of face coverings is: Saturday, 4:30 pm; Sunday, 7:30 am, 11:30 am, and all daily Masses and other events (like the Thursday Adoration).
- Outside Masses - there will be no change regarding face coverings.

With a spirit of compliance, caution and charity for one another, we will be able to accommodate all of our parishioners and ensure that they feel welcome and safe while attending Mass at St. Mary Parish.

Fr. Javier Nieva and Fr. Jose Noriega thank you in advance for your cooperation as we slowly begin to transition back to a more normal way of celebrating the sacraments. We ask for your continued prayers for the Disciples and all of our parishioners that we may continue to stay healthy and grow in holiness.