



# CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH

## Guide to Attending Public Masses

*September 25, 2020*

Welcome back to the public celebration of Sunday Mass at Christ the Redeemer!

We are ready to open our doors again to hundreds of you every Sunday on a weekly basis. For months, you have been attending Mass as part of our groups, via our livestream or have eagerly signed up for the waitlist to get access to the Eucharist as often as possible. We are thankful for such a resilient and faithful community!

Adhering to the guidelines below will make possible our ambitious “Every Parishioner, Every Sunday,” plan. The guidelines flow from the latest provincial health orders which are intended to keep events and gatherings as safe as possible. Attending Mass during these times will be a little different. As Catholics, we believe that Mass is important for our spiritual health and so with you in mind, we have made Mass as accessible as possible to our parish family.

### The Basics

1. Please maintain physical distance of 2 meters at all times.
2. Hand sanitizer is available as you check in for Mass. Please use it upon arrival at the church or gym.
3. Please wear a mask especially when entering or leaving the church or gym as these are the busiest times.
4. If you have any (even mild) symptoms of illness, or have come into contact with someone with COVID-19, **please remain at home**. Don't worry, you won't lose your place in your Mass group.
5. If you contract COVID-19, please privately notify the parish office or the pastor.

### Mass Groups

1. To accommodate the overwhelming response to our new plan, Masses will be celebrated live in the church and simultaneously broadcast in the gym to accommodate two groups at the same time. Communion will also be distributed in the gym. Mass groups will alternate between the church and the gym each week with no contact or crossover between the two locations.
2. At this time, only those pre-registered will be permitted to attend Sunday Masses. If you have not registered, please contact the office and we will send you a form to fill out.
3. Your Mass group is assigned a specific scheduled time, which will be the only time you are able to attend each Sunday. This system is not set up to accommodate first come, first served. Consistency in groups will help us to assess the weekly experience of each group and make any necessary adjustments.
4. If you cannot attend Mass one week, you no longer need to let the office know. However, if you are unable to attend for an extended period of time (3 weeks or more) due to health, travel, or other circumstances, please contact the office so that we can hold your spot.
5. We no longer have a waiting list for Mass. The complexity of managing a waiting list for 16 groups outweighs our ability to run our Sunday Mass plan smoothly.
6. At this time there is no provision for walk-ins at Mass. **Once we are confident that the new Sunday plan is running smoothly, we will revisit this and communicate any new details.** In exceptional circumstances, please contact the office.

## On the Day of Mass

1. Please proceed to check-in upon arrival at your designated entrance. Signs on site will indicate whether you are in the church or the gym that week. Our Welcome Team will be there to greet you and usher you to your seat!
2. Check-in opens **fifteen minutes** before Mass. If you arrive earlier, please wait in your car until that time.
3. We need to begin Mass punctually to ensure our robust schedule stays on time. Once Mass begins the doors will be shut to allow our volunteers to participate. Unfortunately, latecomers will not be able to enter.
4. After checking in, the Welcome Team will seat you in designated spots in the church or gym. To maintain safe distancing, you must remain – for the duration of Mass – in the spot you were assigned.
5. Please cooperate if a member of the Welcome Team asks you to maintain a safe distance, put on a mask or be seated. It's easy to forget these things from time to time and we can all use an occasional reminder.
6. You may make your weekly offering by dropping it off in the collection baskets inside the church or gym. We encourage you to give electronically; please call the office or visit [this link](#) to donate.
7. Following the recommendation of the health authorities, we ask you to refrain from singing. Droplets can transmit the virus. The choir or individual cantors will continue to sing from a safe distance.

## Communion

1. Communion will take place at the end of Mass – please follow the directions of the Welcome Team.
2. As a result of [consultation with the Provincial Health Officer](#), you are strongly recommended to receive Communion by hand.
3. Please leave the church immediately after receiving Communion; do not congregate inside the church or on the plaza to ensure safe distancing and to clear space for the next group.

## Washrooms

1. Groups may only use the facilities within their designated space, including washrooms. Please note that when you are in the gym, access to the single washroom is extremely limited. If you come prepared with this in mind, you will be relieved!

## Prayer

1. Your time at Mass will be briefer than pre-COVID, but you are welcome to visit the church at other times during the week to pray.
2. The doors of the church are open daily from Monday – Friday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm to use as a silent place for prayer. On Saturdays, the doors are open from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

*As Provincial Health Orders change, we must all work together to ensure that Mass is a safe experience for all who attend. Thank you for working with us! We will continue to update this document as necessary.*