



CHRIST THE REDEEMER PARISH

Why Are We Doing This?

Why are we distancing?

- COVID-19 is transferred by droplets when someone is breathing or speaking. A distance of two meters or greater (recommended by provincial health officer) significantly reduces the rate of transmission between people.

Why is the number limited to 50?

- Larger crowds increase the risk of transmission, and so the provincial health officer has ordered that no more than 50 people may be present at one gathering.

Why don't we fill empty seats at Mass?

- Seats are marked and intentionally left empty to facilitate with the distancing and occupancy guidelines as mentioned above.
- If it seems there are lots of empty marked seats during Mass, it's because each marking is for one person. When two or more of the same household sit together, some marked seats become vacant because that household sat together in a space designated for one person.

Why can't we sit anywhere we like?

- Physical distancing especially indoors is a critical step towards the prevention of transmission of the virus.
- Seats have been designated because they have been carefully measured to be 2 metres apart when people sit at the spot with the sticker.
- Please cooperate with the volunteers regarding seating – this helps to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.
- Just one case of COVID-19 attributed to a parishioner attending Mass could possibly lead to the suspension of all Masses and a closure of the church for everyone.

Why do we have to check in?

- Only those registered (either in-person for weekday Masses, or pre-registered for weekend Masses) can attend Mass, as recommended by the Archdiocese.
- You only have to sign-up once for weekend Masses. Once you sign-up and are placed in a Mass group, there is no need to register every week.
- This is to facilitate contact tracing – meaning that if someone contracts COVID-19 or had an asymptomatic case of COVID-19 we are able to quickly and effectively contact every other person that was present at that Mass so they can properly isolate, get tested, and seek resources.

Why can't I take the place of someone who didn't come?

- See comment above about contact tracing.
- We are trying to maintain distinct Mass groups – groups that are constantly changing expose Mass-goers to a greater number of different people.
- The administrative challenges of last-minute registrations exceed our parish resources at this time.

Why is the congregation not singing at Mass?

- Experience has shown that singing indoors greatly increases the danger of spreading COVID-19.
- “We know that singing, and singing in a group, can be a very dangerous thing for this virus and we’ve seen this in a number of places around the world including recent examples in the States to the south of us where singing groups in churches, even with physical distancing have led to transmission of cases, and singing in other situations as well.” – Dr. Bonnie Henry; June 15, 2020

Why don't we encourage/require people to wear masks?

- We certainly haven't discouraged it! And we have made masks available at the check-in desk since the outset.
- Our parish is not implementing a safety strategy of its own making. We follow the guidelines and directives of the provincial health officer and the Archdiocese. We follow them strictly, but we do not develop our own policies even when news reports and other jurisdictions offer what seem to be good ideas.
- At the present time, Dr. Henry has not mandated the wearing of masks. She has emphasized the prime importance of physical distancing. Wearing non-medical masks should certainly be used where physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as public transit.
- Sitting in the designated spots which we have determined are two meters apart, not singing, and washing/sanitizing your hands remain the most effective combination to stay safe while attending Mass at CTR. The fact that our province is now in Phase 3 of the re-start plan does not change these guidelines.

Why is Communion at the end of Mass?

- To avoid bottlenecks in the aisles and at the doors.
- This facilitates an orderly and safely distanced exit from the church. Even with small numbers, if everyone leaves at once, encourages bunching, breaks the physical distancing guidelines, and increases the danger of spreading the virus.

Why the Plexiglass shield?

- Distributing and receiving Holy Communion brings the priest and the communicant less than 2 metres apart from each other; the spoken Communion exchange “The Body of Christ” and “Amen” promotes the production of droplets which can spread the virus. The Plexiglass shield protects both the minister and the communicant from contact with such droplets.

Why are we asked to leave right away (after weekend and weekday Mass)?

- Provincial guidelines recommend limiting the amount of time people spend together in one space to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.
- We use a fogger to disinfect the surfaces in the church before and after weekend Masses. It takes approximately 45 minutes to complete disinfection of the entire church.

Why don't we have altar servers; why do we have only our seminarian?

- The ministry of altar servers brings them within 2 metres of the priests and each other.
- Our seminarian, Joseph, lives in the rectory, and members of one household do not need to observe the same physical distancing with one another.

Why is Mass so short?

- Part of Dr Bonnie Henry's advice regarding the reopening of religious services includes having shorter services in order to reduce the risks of spreading the virus.
- The Archdiocese has asked that Masses be kept as brief as possible.
- The Archbishop suggested that priests use the shorter options available throughout the Mass and give shortened homilies.

Why can't I attend Mass every Sunday at Christ the Redeemer?

- We had more people registered than we have time to accommodate Masses and disinfection, so there must be an alternating system.
- We will continue our weekly live-stream at 9 a.m.
- The Archbishop's lifting of the Sunday obligation remains in place until further notice.

Why didn't I get the Mass time I want?

- Once a Mass time was filled, we prioritized getting our parishioners to Mass over preferred Mass times.
- We can't add more people to a Mass group that's already full, and we want to fill up all Mass groups before considering the possibility of adding another Mass group to the rotation.

Why can't groups meet at the parish right now?

- Meeting indoors, even with physical distancing, greatly increases the risk of spreading the virus.
- Each meeting space requires disinfection before and after each meeting, and the parish does not currently have the resources to do this disinfection at this time.

Why is Christ the Redeemer taking these matters so seriously?

- Christ the Redeemer is not overreacting: each and every measure we have taken carefully follows the provincial health officer's directives and Archdiocesan guidelines.

- Given the demographics of our parish, the Parish Pastoral Council resolved at their meeting of May 9, 2020 that safety must be the paramount concern and that the parish would carefully respect the provincial health officer's directives.

The social ramifications of the pandemic continue to change, and we diligently monitor the situation while following the current directives and guidelines of the provincial health officer and the Archdiocese.