

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

### COVID-19 Guidelines (Update)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, St. Francis Xavier Parish has stringently followed City and County health guidelines in order to keep our parishioners safe. In the beginning, we did not invite people to participate in liturgies in person. Last summer, when the health restrictions relaxed so that it was possible for people to return to Mass in limited numbers, we followed the guidelines about safe-distancing, masking, etc. We roped off every other pew and limited the number to the suggested one-third of total occupancy.

Now the health officials have relaxed the guidelines even more. While they are strongly encouraging safe distancing, they have lifted restrictions on the numbers attending. Therefore, we are making one major change, but all the other safety precautions will still be in place for the time being.

**As of today (March 10, 2021) the ropes will be removed from pews and allow parishioners to sit in all pews. We are still encouraging people to keep a safe distance from each other whenever possible.**

We will continue to follow every other safety measure that are in effect such as:

- Masks are strongly encouraged.
- We will continue to livestream one of our weekend Masses for those who are sick or homebound.
- Offertory baskets will still be at the doors.
- We will still exchange the kiss of peace by a reverent bow instead of shaking hands.
- Holy Communion will be distributed in the hand. Those who desire to receive the body of Christ in tongue will come after ushers at the end of line.
- The Communion Procession will still take place in a single file. Please wait for the ushers to guide you when to move forward.
- Missalettes, Music issues and Prayer cards are removed from the pews. Copies of Sunday Mass Readings are made available to use. Please place them at the recycling basket after use.
- After Mass, please remain in your seat until ushers dismiss you safely.
- Holy water fonts will continue to stay empty.
- Pews and surfaces will be disinfected and cleaned between Masses on weekends.
- Please use the Hand sanitizers that are available at entrances of the church.

Thanks to all of you for your spirited cooperation throughout this ordeal. Things are looking better, but still, we do not want to move too fast and then have to step back later. Please bear with us for a while longer so we can all get through this safely. As Christians, our first concern is for the other persons even more than for ourselves. God bless you!

Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandai