**Guidelines for Attending Mass, Services, Meetings, and Events**

All Archdiocesan guidelines must be followed when attending Mass or other services, meetings or events. Please familiarize yourself with the Guidelines issued by the Archdiocese by visiting their website [www.archdioceseofhartford.org](http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org).

Remember the government is recommending the following persons to stay home and stay safe: anyone who has underlying health risks, anyone who feels sick, or has a cough or fever, those caring for an elderly or sick person, and those feeling anxious or fearful for their own health.

We promise you that we will be responsible, diligent, and cautious as we begin to reopen to ensure the safety and well-being of all of us, clergy and laity. ***While we are doing our best, it should be noted, that any gathering of people carries a risk, and we CANNOT provide an absolute guarantee of your safety.***

**Attending Mass**

1. The dispensation from the Sunday obligation has been extended through November 28th, and we will continue to livestream Mass at 10AM for those who are uncomfortable returning just yet. Those in high-risk categories are encouraged to continue staying home, even as others begin to return to Mass. The decision to attend is yours. Please use prudence and good judgement in considering if you should attend a public Mass at this time.

2. **Registration IS REQUIRED** for both weekday and weekend Masses due to the limit of 100 people per worship service at this time. One **MUST** use the Sign-Up Genius to sign up for Mass by going to <https://bit.ly/masssignup> OR by using the link found on our parish website at [www.stbridgetcheshire.org](http://www.stbridgetcheshire.org) OR by using the link on the MyParish App OR by calling the parish office at 203-272-3531 during office hours (M-F 8:30a-4:30p).

3. Please bring your own hand sanitizer and a mask.

4. At ALL times, including entering & exiting the Church, you must practice Social Distancing by staying at least 6 feet from people who do not live in your household

5. The front entrance, and the south entrance, will be the ONLY entrances utilized at this time.

6. You must use hand sanitizer (preferably your own) as you enter the Church

7. You must wear a mask at ALL times (with the following exceptions):

a. Children under the age of two should not wear masks.

b. Parents should judge for children between the ages of two and five whether they should wear a mask.

c. All people who claim an exemption for a legitimate health reason (one that does not pose a risk to others) can forego wearing a mask.

8. There will be NO congregational singing! It has been proven that singing and loud speech expel more excessive water droplets raising the potential for transmitting the virus. Therefore all hymnals have been removed for the time being.

9. There will be NO shaking of hands

10. At communion time, come forward single file, maintaining six feet with the person in front of you, put out your hands to receive Holy Communion, step to the side where the blue X has been put on the floor, lower your mask and consume the consecrated host, then put your mask back on, and return to your pew by the side aisle.

11. Please remember there are to be NO gatherings in the church or the parking lot at any time.

**Attending Meetings, Events, or Other Services**

All guidelines listed above should be followed where appropriate, including masking, social distancing, hand sanitizing, and limited occupancy as mandated by state, local, and Archdiocesan guidelines.

**Parish Office**

The Parish Office is OPEN but at this time we are still not permitting people, other than staff members, into the Rectory for their safety and well-being and your own. We are available by phone or email, and if you need a Mass or sacramental record, we are asking for the information ahead of time, the proper form will be prepared, and we will place it in one of the mailboxes next to the Rectory facing the church. This is the same process for anyone wishing to pick something up or drop something off. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

***Please continue to be united in prayer and trust in God’s wisdom and God’s time as we begin to see a reopening of our parish.***