



## Church of St. Madeleine Sophie

(Guilderland)

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To all our parish families,

It's been very quiet at St. Madeleine Sophie and St. Gabriel's Parishes over these past few months, and we've missed you greatly. Though we've been kept apart throughout this pandemic, we've held you close in thought and prayers and have looked forward to the day we could be reunited in person as a faith community. **Thanks be to God, that day is almost here!**

We are elated to announce that **we will be able to celebrate public Masses at St. Gabriel's and St. Madeleine Sophie Churches beginning Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.** Our plan is to follow the regular mass schedule as follows: 4p.m. on Saturday, 9a.m. and 7p.m. on Sunday at SMS; 7:30a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday at St. Gabriel's.

While we invite parishioners to come in person for these masses, please remember that "the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place, so those who are vulnerable or live with a vulnerable person or even are simply uncomfortable attending a public liturgy are encouraged to remain at home and view the livestreamed Mass at 9A.M, which will be broadcast weekly from Saint Madeleine Sophie Church and later posted to our websites and YouTube.

As we begin the process of opening the church for Mass, please bear with us as there are still many details to be worked out. Our committee for "Re-Entry into the Opening of Public Masses" has been working diligently to develop a plan in which we have great confidence. Yet, we realize that our plan must be open to reassessment, so we are able to develop a response to needs as they become apparent.

As we have all come to expect in these past months, things will look different when we come back and resume public services; of course, the safety of everyone is our primary concern. One of the main changes **you need to be aware of is that pre-registration will be required for anyone wishing to attend mass.** We encourage everyone who uses social media regularly to sign up on-line using "*SIGN UP GENIUS*"; you will be able to access the app by going to our parish website ([www.smsparish.org](http://www.smsparish.org)) and selecting the appropriate button for the mass of your choice. If you are unable to access the website by computer or cell phone, we ask that you contact the SMS Parish Office at (518)355-0421 or email [parishoffice@smsparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@smsparish.org) or SG Parish Office at (518) 355-6600 or email [stgaberectory@aol.com](mailto:stgaberectory@aol.com) to pre-register. Please note: for safety reasons, "walk-ins" will not be permitted to attend mass in person. It will be our priority to make sure everyone who is interested and eligible to attend public Masses has the opportunity to do so in the coming weeks; please don't be discouraged if you can't attend the first few masses!

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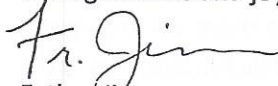
Here Are The Safety Rules We Must Follow To Keep All Of Us Safe:

- ✦ Entrance into Church will be permitted only through the front door
- ✦ Wearing a face mask is required; you will only remove the mask to receive communion
- ✦ When entering the church, registration will be verified and screening will take place before you are seated
- ✦ Use hand sanitizer when entering the church before going to your seat; hand sanitizers will be available for your use
- ✦ Social distancing of 6 ft. must be observed on entering and during Mass, except for family members seated together in their pew.
- ✦ Only exit the Church through the door nearest the side where you were seated for mass or through the front door
- ✦ Do not cross paths to exit
- ✦ Follow the directions given by the ushers and other trained volunteers

These requirements are needed to keep all of us safe, to prevent a resurgence and spread of this Covid-19 virus. We ask for your prayerful patience and cooperation, as we implement these procedures and worship together and receive Holy Communion again.

To be successful in implementing all these new requirements, we'll need the help of many volunteers to serve as ushers, greeters, and helpers to sanitize between Masses. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help in any capacity. We need to do this together so we can open, and stay open, to worship together again. Thank you!

With gratitude and joyful anticipation,

  
Father Jim

### Additional Guidelines for Re-Entry to Celebration of Public Masses

- You will be greeted and asked if you are well
- You must be wearing a mask, exceptions for children under 2,
- You may need to complete a form with your name and contact information. This is for contact tracing.
- Collection baskets will be placed near doors of the church for your offering
- Nothing can be left behind in the seats
- Communion will be directed row by row, the ushers guiding the process
- We urge reception of communion in the hand. Communion minister will sanitize hands between each person who insists on receiving on the tongue.
- There can be no choir, and only the cantors will sing during the Masses.
- Bathrooms will be open but due to sanitation requirements we ask they not be used except in emergency. Sanitizing materials will be available for your use.
- Frequently touched areas, pews and rows will be sanitized prior to and after Masses